

A Calendar History
of
Lexington, Massachusetts
1620 - 1946

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Lexington, Massachusetts

A CALENDAR HISTORY
of
LEXINGTON, MASSACHUSETTS
1620 - 1946



ISSUED BY THE
LEXINGTON SAVINGS BANK
IN OBSERVANCE OF ITS
SEVENTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY
1871 - 1946

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A BRIEF HISTORY
of the
LEXINGTON SAVINGS BANK
1871 - 1946

LEXINGTON SAVINGS BANK

In 1870 the Town of Lexington was in most respects a rural community, differing only in population and transportation from the Middlesex Village which ninety-five years before had made an organized stand on the Battle Green. There were still the two distinct villages with farmers filling the remaining sixteen square miles within the town boundaries. The streets were muddy in spring, dusty in summer and snow-bound in winter. A few small industries maintained a precarious existence and farms were the back-bone of the community. The population had however increased to 2270 and more and more of the inhabitants looked to the City of Boston for their livelihood. They realized that Lexington as a desirable place of residence must increase its public facilities to make for better living.

A library given by Mrs. Maria Cary had opened in a room over B. C. Whitcher's store (later George W. Spaulding's) where the library bulletin board now stands. The new Town Hall, after a long and at times bitter controversy, had been located on Massachusetts Avenue opposite the end of Waltham Street and an appropriation voted for the construction of the four-story French Mansard type of brick building which was to serve the town for 57 years.

Among other plans for the well-being of the town, one of the foremost citizens, George W. Robinson, proposed a savings bank. This suggestion met with instant and hearty approval. A charter was applied for and received. This charter was signed by the Governor of Massachusetts on March 11, 1871. A meeting was then held in the railroad station — a natural and popular place of assembly of the day — to suggest officers and organization. Another meeting followed, this time over Whitcher's store, when the list of incorporators was completed and a temporary organization effected. Then, on April 15, 1871, at a meeting in Seminary Hall in Robinson Block (now 1760-1790 Massachusetts Avenue) the following regular officers were elected.

President, George W. Robinson
Vice Presidents, Sargent C. Whitcher, William D. Phelps,
Matthew H. Merriam
Secretary and Treasurer, Leonard G. Babcock

Modest quarters were secured in Captain William D. Phelps' house and to provide money for immediate expenses a subscription paper was circulated. Forty-three men signed for \$322. and the Lexington Savings Bank opened for business June 3, 1871. The Treasurer, Leonard G. Babcock had a busy day for fifty-nine accounts were opened with a total deposit of \$4736.69.

In May 1873 the Bank moved to the new Town Hall, occupying a back corner of the small room to the right of the main entrance which then accommodated all the town officials. In 1895 the Bank purchased the Smith-Meserve property and in October moved into the store in the west half of the building previously occupied by Mr. Lyman Lawrence. This old building was moved back and the present bank building was erected in 1903. From May 1904 until March 1919 the banking rooms were on the second floor of this new building, since that time on the street floor.

As Mutual Savings Banks are conducted for no other reason than for the benefit of their depositors and the community, the Lexington Savings Bank, in these seventy-five years has given whole-hearted service to the citizens of Lexington. Not only has this been in the obvious ways to be expected of any bank, but in less expected ways. During World War I the banking rooms were used as headquarters by the committee having in charge the drives for the five Liberty Loans. During these drives the Bank was open from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. The newly organized Lexington Red Cross Chapter met in the Trustees' Room. Later the Community War Chest Committee, the Town Committee and the Pageant Directors met here in 1924 and 1925. The Public Health Association, the Isaac Harris Cary Trustees, the Lexington Historical Society and the Limited Town-meeting Committee accepted the Bank's hospitality. Since August 1942 the American Red Cross has had the use of a large room for making surgical dressings and as their local headquarters.

Work with the children in the form of school savings has been one of the Bank's most interesting and worth-while

services. This started in 1924 and continued until December 7, 1941. During those years Lexington school children saved and deposited over \$102,000.00. Immediately after Pearl Harbor the Bank substituted War Savings Stamps and Bonds in place of school savings. In the four years to December 31, 1945 the school children have invested \$172,001.80 in Stamps and Bonds.

Many hundreds of persons have been assisted in becoming home-owners in Lexington for, whenever sound banking has permitted, real estate mortgages on local properties have constituted the principal use of the depositors' funds. Today, the Lexington Savings Bank offers more attractive forms of mortgages and better rates than at any time in its history.

George W. Robinson, founder and first President of the Lexington Savings Bank, outlined its place in the community and its duties in the following statement:

"I estimate its presence a valuable acquisition to the town and its citizens, dispensing facilities for building enterprises creating thereby increased taxable property; encouraging the industrious and provident to lay aside something substantial for a rainy day; admonishing the young to curtail their needless expenses and to acquire habits of sobriety, frugality and thrift."

That is as true today as it was seventy-five years ago. The Lexington Savings Bank will continue to offer to our citizens, old and young, the same type of service which has characterized our dealings for three-quarters of a century. We will continue the jealous care of the funds of the depositors and be alert to the best needs of Lexington and its citizens, that the Bank may continue to enjoy its greatest asset, the full confidence of everyone.

President

JAMES STUART SMITH

Vice Presidents

ARTHUR C. WHITNEY ALBERT H. BURNHAM
CHARLES H. MILES

Clerk of the Corporation and Trustees

WALTER C. BALLARD

Treasurer

EDWIN B. WORTHEN

Assistant Treasurer

HOWARD S. O. NICHOLS

Trustees

1918 WALTER C. BALLARD
1934 S. LEWIS BARBOUR
1932 ALBERT H. BURNHAM
1940 JOSEPH R. COTTON
1944 RICHARD P. CROMWELL
1917 LOUIS L. CRONE
1920 THEODORE A. CUSTANCE
1946 GEORGE E. GRAVES
1937 ARCHIBALD R. GIROUX
1941 ROBERT H. HOLT
1931 ERROL H. LOCKE
1917 CHARLES H. MILES
1914 HOWARD S. O. NICHOLS
1938 WILLIAM G. POTTER
1920 LESTER T. REDMAN
1946 GORDON D. RICHARDS
1932 SHELDON A. ROBINSON
1915 JAMES STUART SMITH
1917 JAMES W. SMITH
1920 HARRY A. WHEELER
1913 JAMES J. WALSH
1931 ARTHUR C. WHITNEY
1909 EDWIN B. WORTHEN

The date preceding the name is the year of election to office.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

JULY 1, 1946

Liabilities

Deposits	\$3,917,038.98
Interest	34,848.51
Rents	1,000.00
Unemployment Tax, etc.	315.36
Mortgagor's Tax Accumulations	14,084.93
Guaranty Fund	232,800.00
Profit and Loss	128,081.42
Special Reserve	30,000.00
	<hr/>
	\$4,358,169.20

Assets

United States Government Bonds	\$2,987,600.00
Massachusetts Town and City Bonds	7,000.00
Bank and Trust Company Stocks	179,451.40
Railroad Bonds	112,611.50
Gas and Electric Company Bonds	5,000.00
Mortgage Loans (less \$5700.00 uncompleted)	851,070.16
Personal Loans	5,304.00
Expense Account	4,390.96
Expense of Bank Building	754.24
Bank Building (assessed \$41,800.00)	25,000.00
Mutual Savings Central Fund	2,620.97
Mutual Savings Deposit Insurance Fund.....	1.00
Securities Acquired for Debt	4,000.00
Boston Terminal Company Bonds	6,000.00
United States Treasury Savings Stamps	1,054.00
United States Treasury Bonds Redeemed.....	3,221.10
Deposits in Other Banks	148,436.25
Cash on Hand	14,653.62
	<hr/>
	\$4,358,169.20

DEPOSITS

July 1, 1871	\$6,666.33
July 1, 1875	\$105,637.49
July 1, 1885	\$104,583.16
July 1, 1895	\$328,375.19
July 1, 1905	\$491,039.80
July 1, 1915	\$734,296.61
July 1, 1925	\$1,303,351.92
July 1, 1935	\$1,827,519.32
July 1, 1945	\$3,322,282.85
July 1, 1946	\$3,917,038.98

A CALENDAR HISTORY
of
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1620 - 1946

LEXINGTON

Area 16.64 square miles

10650.42 acres

Elevation, Mass. Ave. at Waltham Street	223.6	feet
Granny Hill	363	"
Robinson Hill	349	"
Scott's Hill	364	"
Fiske Hill	303	"
"Mt. Gilboa," on Winchester line	385	"
Top of Standpipe	443	"
Top of Observation Tower was	373	"
Common	224	"
Tophet Swamp	110	"
Top of Unitarian Church Steeple from ground is	130	"
Greatest length	5.8	miles
Greatest width	4.85	miles
Miles public streets	54.43	
Miles unaccepted street	55.45	
Miles state highways	10.84	

MASSACHUSETTS BAY COLONY

"The Puritan settlement of the Massachusetts Bay Colony was one of the most striking enterprises in world history."

Their Charter gave implicit authority to govern; "full and absolute power and authority to correct, punish, pardon and rule" — "all who might inhabit within the precincts of its jurisdiction" and "to expulse, repel — by all fitting means — all such persons as shall at any time attempt the destruction, detrement or annoyance to the Plantation or its inhabitants."

TOWN MEETINGS

The Town-meeting form of local government and the election of Selectmen began immediately upon the settlement of the first villages.

"By experience there was wrought out the matchless mechanism of the town-meeting. It served the double purpose of government in local affairs and instruction of the citizens in public administration. It is an institution peculiar to New England. It was a pure democracy admirably adapted for successful operation in small communities. The town-meeting system of local government has received lavish encomiums from every foreigner who has studied our institutions. Jefferson acknowledged its superiority. The principals of civil liberty were forged and diffused throughout the Colony by means of its frequent and animated deliberations."

Chief Justice Rugg — Oct. 19, 1930.

TO THE TOWN OF LEXINGTON, MASSACHUSETTS

The pages that follow are intended to be a chronological history of Lexington. They might have been written as a sort of diary by some fellow townsman who miraculously has survived throughout the entire life of the town. This long-lived person put down mainly dates and facts, but at times these were amplified by other relevant matter. There will be found the date of an earthquake, a small-pox epidemic, a cold snap, also the proceedings in town-meeting, as well as passing reference to persons and places.

This may make dull reading, but nevertheless, from these events came the town that was Lexington and the town that is Lexington today.

THE BACKGROUND

- 1620 Nov. 3. King James signs Patent for the incorporation of the "Council established at Plymouth [England] for the Planting, Ruling, Ordering and Governing of New England in America."
- 1628 March 19. The "Council" sell Rights or "Patent" to all lands in Massachusetts Bay from three miles south of the Charles River to three miles north of the Merrimac River. Puritans acquire this Patent.
- 1629 March 4. On petition, King Charles confirms this patent by issuance of a Charter to the "Governor and Company of the Massachusetts Bay in New England."
- Aug. 29. Members of this Company vote to transfer the Charter and government to New England.
- 1630 Spring. Fourteen vessels and some 800 persons sail from England and arrive at Naumkeag [Salem].
Summer. Most of them move on to Charlestown.
Fall. And then on to Trimount [Boston].
- Oct. 19. First meeting of the General Court is held in Boston.
- Dec. 21. Exploring party returning from Watertown, view the plain extending from Alyvebrook to the Charles River [Cambridge].
- Dec. 28. The governor and assistants agree that this is the place for the seat of government. It is called "The Newtowne."
- 1631 The seat of government is transferred to Boston. General Court passes a law that none but church members be admitted as free-men. This law held until 1664.

- 1632 The Cambridge town-records begin with the settlement in 1631.

The first few pages are so badly worn and torn as to be of little value except to indicate the setting up of a town government. The first clear and dated record provides for Town Meetings.

Dec. 24. "Agreement made by a Generall Consent for a monthly meeting" and again

- 1634 Feb. 3. "Att a Gennerall Meeting of the whole Towne Itt was Agreed upon by a Joynt Consent that 7 menn shall bee Choffen to doe the whole buffiness of the Towne and foe to Continew untell the ffirst Monday in November next and untell new be Choffen in Their Room foe ther was then Elected and Choffen" [the 7 Selectmen] and further

"Itt is further Ordered by a Joynt Consent... whatsoever these townsmen thuse choffen shall doe In the Compas of ther tyme shal stand in as full force as if the whole Towne did the same either for makeing of new orders or alteringe of ould ones"

- 1636 General Court extends the northern boundary of the Newtowne to the "eight-mile line." (Cambridge Water Basin — back of Unitarian Church — to Butterfield's Pond.)

Jan. 2. Cambridge grants to Mr. Richard Herlarkenden "600 acres of upland and meadow at the place called Vyne Brook" (all of Lexington Centre).

Oct. 28. General Court appropriates £ 400 to found Harvard College.

General Court provides for local Courts.

"Mass. Avenue" cut through the wilderness and Concord is settled.

In the years 1630 to 1640 some 26,000 English persons emigrated to New England. In the same period, over 100,000 emigrated to the West Indies.

1637 General Court passes law against harboring strangers, maintained until 1793.

The Charter of the Bay Colony provided "full and absolute power to expulse, repel — by all fitting means — all such persons as shall at any time attempt the destruction, detrement, or annoyance to the Plantations or its inhabitants." Those who settled all the New England Colonies were determined that the purposes for which they had sought these shores, and the faith to which they adhered should not be thwarted or hindered by unwelcome settlers or temporary visitors. They had the legal backing of the Charter, laws passed by their own General Courts, and by specific votes in every community. The outstanding example of the application of these laws was the persecution of the Quakers, but there are many examples of less importance in every New England Village. The votes within the various communities were to the effect that none might come to dwell therein without the consent of the townspeople.

While in the first years this was largely enforced against those whose religious beliefs were not acceptable to the Puritans, it was also used to keep out those who might become a financial burden on the community. Gradually, as the "Puritan spirit" waned, the religious barrier disappeared, but the law was extensively used everywhere to forestall any possible pauper from securing a legal residence.

Notice of the coming of any person or family, even if on a temporary visit had to be given to the Selectmen. They then entered upon their records the name of the informant, the name or names of the new-comers, from whence they came, and that he or they were presumed to be in "good" or "low" circumstances. Then the Selectmen gave this information to the Constable and instructed him to go to the Court and secure a Writ to serve on the new-comers. This writ was called a "Caution" and it cited the new-comer's name, or if a family, every name down to the baby. It recited

1637 that they were warned or "cautioned" that he or they, in coming to the town, gained no rights or privileges and warned them to depart within fifteen days.

If in good circumstances and otherwise not objectionable, nothing further happened. Eventually the person or persons concerned stood up in church and "owned the Covenant" — that is, made a declaration of faith, and were then accepted into the church and community. In the case of temporary guests, relatives, farmhands, etc., it was usual for some interested person to appear before the Selectmen and give written assurance that he would assume any responsibility incurred by the temporary residence of the new-comers.

These records appear throughout New England. In Lexington, the earliest records seem to be missing, but are complete from 1749 to 1793. During these years, the persons warned out seem to have been about 120 men and boys, probably mostly farm-hands and indentured servants; about 135 single women and widows, some with children, some of whom were nurses and servants; about 35 babies, mostly to take the place of new-born babies who had died; some 15 colored persons, and between 90 and 100 families or husbands and wives. Most of these must have been temporary residents, for few of the names appear elsewhere on our Town Records.

There are on our records cases of the actual removal of the persons from the town. The Constable, at the direction of the Selectmen, taking the "undesirable" and carrying him to another town, or to the place whence he came, or to where it was suspected he had a settlement, and uncereemoniously dumping him out in the centre of the village to shift as best he could. The community burdened with an "undesirable" looked to the community where he had acquired a settlement for relief and costs. If this person had never acquired a settlement in any community the liability was on the community where his father had a

- 1637 settlement and failing in this then on his grandfather's settlement. There are cases on our records where Lexington is called upon to pay to other communities costs and upkeep of persons of the third generation — fifty years after any member of the family had lived in this town. Most of these cases concerned the descendants of slaves.

These conditions resulted in vexatious delay and in law-suits between the towns, yet they persisted until the General Court in 1793 enacted a new Settlement Law.

- 1638 May 8. General Court changes the name of the Newtowne to Cambridge.
- 1639 First "Post Office" in the Colony is designated by the General Court.
- 1641 Dec. 10. General Court adopts the great "Body of Liberties."
- 1642 General Court extends the bounds of Cambridge to the Merrimac River.
Herlarkenden's grant passes to Herbert Pelham, recorded "at the further side of Vine Brook, one house and 600 acres" (first house in Lexington — site of the Edison Station).
- 1643 May 10. General Court establishes Middlesex County.
- 1644 March 17. General Court divided into two branches.
- 1647 Nov. 11. Teachers and schools are required in all towns. There was no such legislation in England until 1832.
- 1648 General Court authorizes first printing of the general laws.
One thousand acres [vicinity of Grove Street] set aside for the benefit of the Cambridge Church.

- 1648 April 12. John Stedman has liberty to mow meadow "nere unto the path from Vine Brook to Watertown." (Waltham, Stedman, Allen, Blossom Sts.)
- 1650 Edward Winship's mill on "Bow Street" is mentioned in his will.
- 1652 May 27. General Court authorizes coinage of money.
- 1655 Billerica, including Bedford, set off as a separate town.
- 1659 May 11. General Court. Fines are to be imposed on those who observe Christmas and the like.
- 1660 "The Townsmen do order a highway — to run from Deacon Stone's farm to Watertown line." (Old Shade Street, "Cutler's Lane", old Concord Avenue, "Ricci's Lane", Bow Street at Waltham line.)
- 1668 Feb. 8. Deacon Stone is appointed "for Katechifing the youth at the remote farms."
(For an extended account of the early land grants and settlers, see "*Proceedings*" Vol. II, "Proprietors.")
- 1669 Cambridge Church decides to sell its 1000 acres.
- 1675 King Philip's War.
- 1676 General Court: First legislation for care of insane.
Nov. 27. Great fire in Boston.
- 1678 Bricks being made at the "clay-lands" (between Bedford Street and Grove Street).
- 1682 Estimated population [of Lexington] is 30 families.
The "Farmers" petition to Cambridge that they be set off as a separate Parish is denied.

- 1683 "Bedford Street" at "Buckman Tavern" is laid out.
- 1684 A second petition to be set off is denied.
June 18. The Colony Charter is annulled.
- 1690 Sept. 25. First newspaper appears in Boston and is immediately suppressed.
Dec. 10. General Court authorizes paper money — first in America or Great Britain.
- 1691 Dec. 15. The General Court grants the petition for the establishment of a separate Parish at Cambridge Farms [Lexington].

THE PARISH OF CAMBRIDGE FARMS

(See "*Proceedings*," Vol. III)

- 1692 Jan. 16. Cambridge votes to sell five or six acres to the "Farmers" near Muzzey's [site of the Edison Station] for their minister, provided they can agree on a price.
- March 24. Mr. Benjamin Estabrook is invited to be the minister.
- April 22. The Parish is organized.
Church is built, from funds raised by subscription (it stood about where the Minute-man statue stands).
- John Munroe gives land for a Cemetery (north-west part of Colonial Cemetery). (See "*Proceedings*," Vol. III.)
- Nov. 25. The Province laws create the "Superior Court of Judicature."
The Supreme Judicial Court of Massachusetts is its direct descendant and it the oldest court in America in continuous existence.
- May 14. The "William and Mary" Colonial Charter arrives.

- 1693 March 1. Selectmen or "Assessors" are elected.
April 28. The "Farmers" purchase land from Cambridge. The income therefrom is to be used to help support the Minister. (It comprised 148 acres, extending from Stratham Road across the Playground and Waltham Street.)
Reference is made to the "long causeway" built on logs — Massachusetts Avenue at Common to foot of Concord Hill).
Oct. The 600 acre grant to Herbert Pelham is sold. (See 1642.)
Benjamin Muzzey [who resided in the ancient first house] buys 206 acres, most of it on the North side of "Massachusetts Avenue" from Vine Brook to "Hancock Street" and back to Granny Hill.
Joseph Estabrook buys 200 acres north side of "Massachusetts Avenue" from Vine Brook to near the Munroe Cemetery.
John Poulter buys 200 acres south side of "Massachusetts Avenue" from "Waltham Street" to near "Bloomfield Street."
- 1694 Vote to build a house for Mr. Estabrook (located at about the back wall of Cary Memorial Building).
- 1696 March. Cambridge committee establish the lines of "Massachusetts Avenue" by marking the trees at sides of the road.
"Woburn Street" is referred to as a lane. They also mark the trees on the road to Billerica. (Hancock and Grove Streets.)
- 1697 July 22. Rev. Benjamin Estabrook dies.
- 1698 Nov. 2. Rev. John Hancock ordained. (See *Proceedings*," Vol. III.)
Estimated population 350.
- 1700 Cambridge votes to give its "little meeting-house bell" to the Farmers.
March 10. A reference to Mt. Tabor.

- 1702 Serious out-break of small-pox.
- 1703 Path to Watertown laid out. (Waltham Street, Marrett Road, Stedman Road, Allen Street, etc.)
The Clay-lands are laid out.
"Marrett Road" is laid out, from "Stedman Road" easterly. "Hancock Street," old "North Hancock Street" and upper "Bedford Street" laid out. "Bedford Street" at "Buckman Tavern" "is not in the place where it was laid out." Muzzey gets the old road through his lands and 20 shillings. "Hancock, Burlington and Grove Streets" are laid out 2 rods wide. "Mass. Avenue" over "Concord Hill" laid out 8 rods [133+ feet] wide.
- 1705 A reference to Mt. Gilboa.
- 1706 Parish votes requesting that Cambridge allow £ 6 from taxes for "ye Incorragmt of a fcholle [School] In ye Precinct in ye Winter feason."
- 1708 Jan. 6. Committee appointed to "treat with Nibor Muzzey" about purchase of land north of the meeting-house [Common].
- 1711 Land about the meeting-house is purchased from Muzzey. Cost is £ 16, raised by subscription.
(For an account of the Common and of the early Meetinghouses see "*Proceedings*," Vol. I. II, III.)
Ancient "Pleasant Street" laid out, (west of Oak Street to the "Peacock Farm" on Watertown Street).
- 1712 Oct. 12. The "Farmers" ask Cambridge to unite with them in a petition to the General Court to establish the Farms as a township.
Nov. 18. Vote to build a new meeting-house "in a convenient time."

- 1712 March 20, 1712 Old Style; March 31, 1713 New Style.* The General Court grants the petition of the "Farmers." The Precinct is incorporated and named,

LEXINGTON

(For the origin of the name "Lexington" see
"Proceedings," Vol. I.)

- 1713 Jan. 26. Vote to build a new meeting-house and set it upon the land purchased of Mr. Muzzey (on the Common, back of the first meeting-house).

Election of Joseph Bowman as first Representative to the General Court.

April 6. Vote to build a pound and a pair of stocks. Vote £ 416 toward the cost of the new meeting-house. Ancient "Lowell Street," the "Path to Capt. Cooke's Farm," is laid out.

June 28. John Muzzey is licensed to keep a "public house" [Buckman Tavern]. (For an extended account of the old Taverns see *"Proceedings,"* Vols. I and III.)

- 1714 Aug. 17. Line between Lexington and Cambridge established. (The "first run of water" in the records refers not to Mill Brook [Brown's Brook] but to the first of the two brooks coming down the hill, crossing Massachusetts Avenue and running into Mill Brook.)

*The Julian Year was too long by eleven minutes. In 1582 Pope Gregory attempted to reform the calendar to correct the accumulated error by dropping entirely the 10 days from Oct. 4 to Oct. 14.

Thereafter the Calendar took his name or commonly "The New Style." While the Roman Countries at once adopted this "New Style," England and her Colonies in America, did not adopt it until 1752.

Before 1752 two methods of beginning the year prevailed in England; the ecclesiastical or legal year began on March 25th, the historical year began on January 1st. Hence "double-dating" between January 1st and March 25th.

The accumulated difference in styles to 1699 was 10 days — To 1800, 11 days and since 1800, 12 days.

Thus the date of the incorporation of Lexington is written in the Old Style, March 20, 1712-3 and by our present mode of reckoning March 31, 1713.

- 1714 Nov. 2. Vote to erect a school-house (on the Common, site of the Ancient Monument). (For an account of early school-houses see "*Proceedings*," Vol. I.)
"Path to Stone's" is laid out [Lincoln Street].
Feb. 22. General Court passes laws in recognition and encouragement of water-flowage and mill-rights (of great importance in the development of manufacturing in the Colony).
- 1715 First meeting-house is sold for £ 17.
- 1716 School "rates" are established. Two pence per week for reading, three pence for writing and cyphering.
- 1717 Feb. 20 and April 12, heavy snow.
First "dame school" established. This is in a private house for smaller children, and in 1718 four more schools were started. They were to continue for many years.
- 1718 Lay-out of "Woburn Street" superseding the earlier "Vine Street."
- 1719 John Hancock, father of the Governor, first Lexington boy to graduate from Harvard.
- 1722 Common enlarged by purchase of an additional acre (this was a strip across the upper end, about 150 feet wide and included "Harrington Road").
Outbreak of small-pox.
- 1727 Oct. 29. The "Amazing Earthquake." There were 12 shocks in a week, one of considerable violence.
- 1728 July 6. Thomas Paul's wife, a pauper, has died. Selectmen purchase seven quarts of "rhum" for the funeral.
Small parcel of land set off to Bedford.

- 1728 Town votes Rev. John Hancock £85 "to purchase him a servant."
Sixteen mild earthquake shocks in January, a dozen more in the spring.
More small-pox.
- 1729 July 13. Capt. John Parker born. (See "*Proceedings*," Vol. I.)
- 1730 Oct. 26. When the grave-cloth is rented out of town, the rent is to be 10 shillings.
More small-pox.
- 1733 "Waltham Street" lay-out, "near the back side of Munroe's Malt-house [site of Hancock School] and to keep to the trodden path to near the Meeting-house."
Aug. Lieutenant Munroe concedes, that if he gets paid for it, the road, "Waltham Street," should be across his pasture on the Northwest side of the hill [Belfry Hill] between the hill and his new house (1906 Massachusetts avenue, built in 1729).
Nov. 2. Selectmen lay out road as above "to the county road [Massachusetts Avenue] near the great causeway."
- 1734 Ebenezer Hancock ordained as his father's colleague.
After Lexington was incorporated the Town was required to pay its share of the maintenance cost of the "great bridge," from Cambridge to "Brington."
Lexington continued to pay until relieved by an act of the General Court in 1859. In 1734 the General Court, appreciating the burden laid on Lexington, granted the town 1000 acres of land in Dorchester-Canada [now "Ashburnham"]. The town sold this land in 1757 but the proceeds of the sale were ultimately wiped out by the depreciation in Continental money.

- 1735 Amos Muzzey has permission to raise his dam and to make it wide enough for teams to pass over (on Vine Brook, about half-way between Massachusetts Avenue and Vine Brook Road).

There are 20 slaves in Lexington.

- 1738 Lay-out of "Massachusetts Avenue" (Through the Centre it varied from 120 to 150 feet wide; going up Concord Hill, 140 feet; over top of hill, 100 feet; and from E. Fiske's [Bashian's], 116 feet wide.)

- 1740 Rev. Ebenezer Hancock dies.

- 1744 June 3. Earthquake.

- 1747 Purchase of additional land at the cemetery.

- 1748 The Assessors find 20 slaves, 236 oxen, 598 cows, 147 horses, 746 sheep and 240 hogs.

- 1752 Dec. 6. Rev. John Hancock dies (54 years minister in Lexington).

- 1754 Lincoln incorporated, taking 974 acres from Lexington. (What is now the Cambridge Water-basin, Mt. Tabor, etc.)

- 1755 Nov. 5. Rev. Jonas Clarke installed. (See "*Proceedings*," Vol. IV.)

Nov. 18. Earthquake.

- 1757 Refuse to set Joseph Fassett's land off to Bedford.

- 1758 Again refuse.

- 1760 March 20. Great fire in Boston, 350 buildings destroyed.

- 1761 Feb. James Otis makes famous speech against Writs of Assistance.
May. Town refuses to grant petition of Edward Winship, Jr. to be set off to Cambridge (all of lower East Lexington).
June. Vote to build a new school-house on the same spot as old one and to tear down old one. (Second school-house on Common.)
Old Belfry built on Belfry Hill. (See "*Proceedings*," Vol. I.)
- 1764 Isaac Stone presents a bell.
- 1765 March 22. Parliament passes Stamp Act.
Oct. 21. Town adopts strong resolutions against Stamp Act.
- 1766 Vote to set Ebenezer Page [Fassett land] off to Bedford (N/W of Westview Cemetery).
March 16. Stamp Act repealed.
- 1767 March 20. General Court passes law prohibiting circulating Bills of Credit [paper currency] of other Colonies in the Bay Colony.
June 29. Parliament passes the Townshend Acts.
Sept. 11. Vote to move the Belfry from the hill and put it near the corner of "Clarke Street." Later, at night, persons unknown move the Belfry from the hill to the Common.
Oct. Warrant for town-meeting reads, to see if the townspeople cannot "agree to pitch on some place for the belfry and confirm it by a vote that will have a tendency to make peace in the town." Belfry stays on the Common, back of the meeting-house.
Sept. 12. Twelve British War Ships arrive in Boston harbor.
Mulliken busy making clocks, at lower corner of "Bloomfield Street" and "Massachusetts Avenue." (See "*Proceedings*," Vol. III.)

- 1769 March 6. Town votes not to use any tea or permit to be kept either tea or snuff until the duty is removed.
- 1770 March 5. Boston Massacre.
- March 5. Town votes to sell all of Ministerial Land on North side of "Massachusetts Avenue" to Robert Moore. (Lands about Stratham Road. Moore lived on Hill Street at foot of Cedar Street. Later the Poor Farm.)
- 1771 General Court authorized public magazines for powder, etc.
- 1772 Nov. 3. Boston's Committee of Correspondence organized — to be followed by 80 other towns.
- Dec. 31. Lexington passes strong Resolutions on the unhappy state of affairs in the Colony.
- The Resolutions referred to herein, from the hand of Parson Clark, are considered the finest resolutions passed by any town in the Colonies.
- For a concise account of the events leading up to the Revolution, see "*Proceedings*," Vol. IV.
- 1773 Jan. 3. The town passes stirring vote of Instructions to their Representatives in the General Court. Choose their first Committee of Correspondence.
- May 10. Town votes to buy land from Lieut. Ebenezer Fiske and to relocate "Massachusetts Avenue" over Fiske Hill (from Wood Street westerly).
- Dec. 13. Town passes its famous Resolution containing the pledge
- "We shall be ready to Sacrifice our Estates, and everything dear in life, Yea, & Life it-self, in support of the common cause."
- May. Burglary at Parson Clarke's. Burglar is caught, and as burglary was a capital crime, he was executed in Boston, Oct. 20, 1773.
- Dec. 16. Boston Tea-party.

- 1774 March 25. Parliament passes Boston Port Bill.
- May 15. Gen. Gage proclaims Military Rule in Massachusetts.
- June 17. The last session of the General Court of the Province dissolved.
- Aug. 15. All public meetings are prohibited.
- Aug. 30. Middlesex County Convention at Concord, "to deliberate on the state of affairs." First convention for this purpose in the Colonies.
- Sept. 5. Continental Congress meets at Philadelphia.
- Sept. 26. Town passes Resolutions "on the alarming state of our public affairs."
- Vote to buy a hearse and to keep it in the Belfry.
- Oct. 7. First Provincial Congress sits at Salem. Jonas Stone, delegate, also to the sessions in 1775.
- Oct. 17 - Dec. 10. Provincial Congress sits at Cambridge, Watertown and Concord.
- Oct. and Nov. Local military measures under way. Vote to increase supply of powder and flints, and to buy two cannons and two drums.
- Dec. 12. First military drill for local "training band."
- Town refuses to pay Province tax to the Royal Collector, and at the same time declines to erect a liberty-pole (as many other towns were doing).
- Dec. 27. Town votes to abide by the Resolves of the Continental Congress and appoints a committee on same.
- Dec. 28. Town meeting held in Buckman Tavern — vote to purchase bayonets.
- 1775 Population estimated at 700.
- 13,000 British soldiers in Boston and Boston Harbor.
- Feb. 26. General Gage sends troops to Salem.

1775 There are no Lexington Town Records from March 6 to May 22.

April 16. Revere comes to Lexington to confer with Hancock and Adams.

April 17. Committees of Safety and Supplies meet at Concord.

April 18. Revere and Dawes spread the alarm.

April 19. Battle of Lexington.

In response to the alarm given by Revere and Dawes the Lexington Minute-men gathered before daylight at Buckman Tavern. As no further word was received that British troops were on the way, Captain Parker dismissed his company, but urged the men to remain in the vicinity. Just as the sun rose the advance guard of 400 men under Major Pitcairn came up the Boston road and William Dimond sounded the long roll on the drum to recall the Minute-men. The first line of thirty-eight men formed and a second line was being formed as Major Pitcairn advanced and ordered them to lay down their arms and disperse. A shot was fired, from which side will probably never be known, and Major Pitcairn ordered his troops to fire on the Minute-men, some of whom had broken ranks and were dispersing.

Seven Lexington men were killed and one from Woburn. Nine were wounded. Two British soldiers were wounded and Major Pitcairn's horse was hit in two places. Three more Lexington men were killed in the afternoon during the retreat of the British. The total casualties in the entire day were 49 Americans killed, 42 wounded, and five missing; of the British, 65 were killed, 180 wounded and 28 missing. The British in their retreat burned or destroyed private property in Lexington to the amount of £ 2576.

Few events in American history have excited such sustained interest as the Battle of Lexington. It was long ago listed as one of the fifteen decisive battles in world history. F. W. Coburn lists over

- 1775 150 items of source material and every new scrap of evidence is eagerly sought. The English source material is also of great interest for the news of the disastrous defeat of trained troops by "farmers," and the decisive break with the Colonies shook England to the core.

See Hudson's "*History of Lexington.*"

For a very critical analysis of the Battle of Lexington see "*Historic Doubts on the Battle of Lexington*" by Harold Murdock.

See also, "*The Day of Concord and Lexington*" by Allen French of Concord and "*The Battle of April 19, 1775*" by Frank W. Coburn and published by the Lexington Historical Society.

April 23. News of the Battle of Lexington reaches New York.

April 24. General Gage sends his report to England on the Battle of Lexington; it arrives June 10.

April 28. Capt. Derby sails from Salem with report on the Battle of Lexington prepared by Committee of Safety. He arrives in London May 27, almost two weeks ahead of General Gage's report. It creates consternation in England.

June 17. Battle of Bunker Hill.

July 3. Washington takes command at Cambridge.

Sept. 17. Death of Capt. John Parker.

Nov. 6. Town votes to suspend grammar school "on account of the expense the town is under."

Appoint a Committee to care for the poor and suffering who come from Boston and Charlestown.

Vote to sell 100 cords of wood [from the Ministerial Land] to the Continental Army at Cambridge, and to have a Committee solicit additional wood for the Army and refugees. (Many hundreds of cords of wood were cut and sold to the Army.)

- 1776 March 4. So many men away on military duty it is necessary to adjourn the annual town-meeting.

1776 March 17. Evacuation of Boston.

May 10. General Court adopts a resolution that the towns should call meetings "to determine whether, if Congress should declare the Colonies independent, the inhabitants would solemnly engage with their lives and fortunes to support the measure." (This two months before the Declaration of Independence.)

May 23. Lexington votes to uphold the Continental Congress should it declare for Liberty and Independence.

July 4. Declaration of Independence by Congress.

July 6. Town votes a bounty for every man who will enlist for the expedition to Canada.

Oct. 9. Townsmen are first referred to as Free Men rather than Free-holders.

Oct. 21. Resolutions not approving a proposed State Constitution.

Twenty-six of the leading men of Lexington join in signing a Resolution — "we believe that the war is, on the part of the Colonies, just and necessary ... According to our best power and ability we will defend by arms the United American Colonies against every hostile attempt by Great Britain." Thus publicly they proclaimed themselves as rebels.

1777 Feb. 9. First proposal by the town for a monument to those slain April 19, 1775.

Selectmen and a Committee fix prices on all common commodities and wages.

May 2. Committee on consideration of the proposed State Constitution present resolutions. (See Oct. 21, 1776.)

After the defeat of General Burgoyne at Saratoga October 17, nearly 6000 British and Hessian prisoners are quartered at Cambridge.

Nov. 15. Congress adopts Articles of Confederation.

Nov. 24. Vote \$481. to 13 volunteers.

- 1778 Proposed State Constitution is rejected.
Local Committee appointed to consider and report on the Articles of Confederation of the United States.
- May 11. Town votes to raise more men for the Army.
- May 14. Vote to raise £ 2001 and assess it, to cover military costs to date.
- May 14 - June 1 - June 15. Town-meetings to discuss the proposed Articles of Confederation. Town opposes their adoption 72-0.
- June 24. Vote to raise more men for the Army and to borrow money to pay them.
- July 31. Calls for men and supplies.
- July. Convention at Concord fixes prices on all commodities.
- Sept. 23. Vote a bonus of £ 15 to men who will enlist.
- Nov. 4. Vote to borrow money to pay soldiers.
- "Not worth a Continental Dollar."*
From January 1777 to January 1781 the value of One Pound in paper money (Continental) depreciated in value from 228 pence to 3 pence.
- 1779 Feb. 15. Strong vote against monopoly, etc.
- April 15. Committee appointed to list soldiers and length of service. Rescind the appropriation of £ 2001. Vote "no pay" to those who saw service but who have since moved away.
- June 21. Vote "no action" on request for eight more men for the Army.
- June 25. Vote: No money shall be paid to men who saw military service but that each shall receive his respective "credit." The "smallest estimate" shall be doubled. (This because paper money was depreciating so rapidly.)

1779 Vote to hire eight men for the Army.

July 5. Concerning depreciated currency. Vote to approve acts of Boston and of Philadelphia and to send delegates to a convention at Concord.

Aug. 2. Parson Clarke appointed delegate to State Constitutional Convention.

Aug. 16. Town again fixes prices on commodities and adopts resolutions against profiteering.

Aug. 26. Vote to raise £ 3300 to repay citizens who advanced money to soldiers.

Sept. 6. Vote to raise more men for the Army.

Sept. 20. Vote to send provisions and supplies.

Oct. 18. Committee reports its inability to hire men for the Army.

Oct. 25. Vote to raise £ 2350 to pay men last raised for the Army.

During the years 1778-1780, town-meetings were held as often as twice a month as the Town struggled with the problems of furnishing men and supplies for the Army and a depreciating (finally worthless) currency.

Population estimated 750.

1780 May 19. The "Dark Day." (See 1830.)

Four Town-meetings are given over to the discussion of the proposed State Constitution. (Written by John Adams.)

June 14. Committee reports cost of raising men to date to be £ 3337.

Town votes to raise £ 13,350; "money being worth $\frac{1}{4}$ what it was."

Vote to hire more men for the Army "as cheaply as possible." To see if men will accept their pay in grain. Vote to borrow money. Parson Clarke contributes £ 300.

1780 June 15. Constitution of Massachusetts is declared adopted.

One of the great "State Papers," among other things it abolished slavery in Massachusetts. (See "*Proceedings*," Vol. IV.)

"We can take pride in the fact that when the United States nine years later proposed to draw up its Constitution much was framed on that instrument so carefully drafted in this Commonwealth." — Leverett Saltonstall, Oct. 19, 1930.

Dec. 13. State Seal adopted.

Dec. 20. Depreciated currency. Selectmen sell an old iron kettle for \$1200.

1781 Pauper costs: 6 yards cotton cloth @ \$35. a yard; board, \$55. a week; one handkerchief, £ 9.

Jan. 8. Vote to raise £ 21,600.

Jan. 17. Vote to raise £ 39,000.

Feb. 20. Town authorizes Committee to pay men who will enlist in cattle, suggesting 15 to a man.

March 6. Income from the Ministerial Fund first applied toward support of the minister.

March 15. Town is divided 37-39 as to whether they will act on or postpone action on paying soldiers who saw service. They invite a non-resident [from Concord] to sit in with them. Violent objection to this action.

May 17. Election of Representative. Vote not to elect one on account of the expense. Reconsider, and proceed to vote. So many voters are challenged they decide to adjourn and to have every voter sworn before a Justice of the Peace.

William Dimond, the drummer (April 19), who had removed from Lexington, sues the town and recovers his pay. (See April 15, 1779.)

Oct. 19. Yorktown.

During the years of the Revolution, the Com-

- 1781 monwealth of Massachusetts paid into the United States Treasury \$1,921,000. more than she received back. This amount was ten times as much as the total contributions of Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Georgia combined, and twice that of either New York or Pennsylvania.
- 1782 Lexington in common with other communities is hard hit by the cost of the war and worthless money.
- May 15. Parson Clarke makes another contribution. No money is appropriated for town expenses. No representative is chosen. It is almost impossible to collect taxes.
- Nov. 30. Great Britain acknowledges American Independence. Treaty of Peace not concluded until Sept. 3, 1783.
- Dec. 23. Vote £ 150 to "pay such bills of the town as are most pressing and called for."
- 1783 Mar. 10. Robert Moore offers the town \$5.00 to be excused from election as constable — is refused. He offers \$7.00 and he is excused.
- May 22. Resolves against permitting Loyalists to return, and for approving confiscation of their property.
- Sept. 3. Treaty of Peace with Great Britain is signed.
- Sept. 22 and 29. Vote to build a Poor House, to cost £ 80.
- 1784 Poor House is built on the Ministerial Lands (Lincoln Street about opposite Hastings Road). Lexington Artillery Company organized (disbanded 1849). Permission given to erect a gun-house on the Common.

- 1786 Jan. 30. Instructions to the town's Representative on "the alarming situation in our public affairs."
May 29. No man will serve as Constable and it becomes necessary to separate the office and duties of Constable and Tax Collector, which to this time has been one office.
- 1787 Shays Rebellion.
May 26. Lay-out of new "Cedar Street" accepted.
Dec. 10. Benjamin Brown elected delegate to the Convention to convene in Boston January 9, 1788, to consider ratification of the Constitution of the United States.
- 1788 Feb. 6. Massachusetts ratifies the Constitution by a vote of 187-168. Lexington's delegate votes in favor.
June 21. The Constitution is adopted by the vote of the ninth state, New Hampshire.
- 1789 June 8. General Court provides for the equal distribution of estates. Previously, the eldest son had received a double share.
Nov. 5. George Washington dines at the Munroe Tavern. (See "*Proceedings*," Vol. I.)
- 1790 Population 941.
- 1791 April 4. Vote to petition Congress to erect a monument over those slain April 19, 1775.
May 9. Vote "not to have a grammar school this year."
Fur industry in the East Village is giving employment to over 100 persons.
Dec. 15. The first ten amendments to the Constitution, called the "Bill of Rights" are declared in force.

1792 Feb. 20. The residents of the East Village request they be set off as "a ward by themselves" for the purpose of building a school-house.

March 5. Town votes "not to act" on above.

Sept. 3. Vote to open four Small-pox "hospitals."
Bad epidemic.

The Assessors find 117 dwellings; 19 "shops"; 4 tan-houses; 1 grist-mill; 107 barns; 15 "out-buildings"; 99 horses; 175 oxen; 640 cows; 230 hogs; barrels of cider that can be produced, 885.

1793 March 11. Vote to erect a new Meeting-house. John Hancock donates \$100.

Residents of the East Village want the new Meeting-house to be nearer East Lexington.

March 13. From Town Warrant: "To see if the Town will reconsider their vote to set the Meeting-house where the Committee have begun to lay the foundation [on the Common] and agree to set it where it will give more satisfaction to the inhabitants and appear more elegant to the public, or for the Town to agree to any measure respecting said meeting-house which will have a tendency to make peace." Defeated.

The Meeting-house is erected on the Common and painted pea-green. Some years afterwards the steeple became unsafe and was removed.

Dec. 23. Vote to have seats in the Meeting-house for negroes.

Town is surveyed.

1794 Jan. 15. Meeting-house is dedicated.

Jan. 11. Apparently the residents of the East Village have gone ahead and built their own school-house, for at this town meeting it was voted, "That the Town Committee for building school-houses, when they shall receive the school-house in the east part of the town as the town's property,

- 1794 that they shall move it to some convenient place when they can procure a place to set it." (See 1796 and 1805.)

When the residents of the East Village erected their own school-house has not been determined, but Albert Bryant (*Proceedings*. Volume II. page 35) says "Obadiah Parker, who was much interested in the cause of education, came to East Lexington and built the house for an Academy, whether by his private means or by subscription I cannot state." It stood on Pleasant Street near what is called the "Bridle Path." As Stephen Robbins was deeply interested in the prosperity of the village it is very likely he took a prominent part in this venture — possibly built the building.

July 2, 1795 Benjamin Wellington receives £ 100 and promises to build a school-house near Major Bridge's gate "the house to be the same bigness every way and finished in the same manner as the Proprietor's Schoolhouse near Captain Brown's."

July 2, 1795 N. Wellington receives £ 100 and promises to build a school-house on the spot the town has bought for that purpose near the "Ash-bars," so called, and furnish in the same manner as the Proprietor's school near Captain Brown's.

September 24, 1795 James Wyman gives "free liberty for the town committee to set a school-house on my land, south side of the road, and do give leave to keep said house on said land free of all rent or damages during my life."

October 19, 1795 Nehemiah Estabrook receives £ 100 in full for building a school-house for said town.

On January 4, 1796 "Thomas Fessenden, Benjamin Wellington, Francis Brown and Jonathan Harrington, Jr. for consideration of £ 96 paid by Stephen Robbins, Jr., Benjamin Finney, William Tidd, Isaac Hastings, and Joseph Smith, being a committee chosen by said town to build their school-house grant [to the above five] for their use and of their heirs forever the Proprietor's Schoolhouse, so called, standing near Captain

- 1794 Francis Brown's land in the town road so called."
(See "*Proceedings*," Vol. I.)

On Jan. 30, 1792 Samuel Hastings sold to John Hastings two parcels of land, the first of 100 acres, the second;

"a piece of land whereon the school house now stands containing 3 acres, bounded by lands of John Chandler and Isaac Hastings and easterly on the town road."

There was then a school-house in the West District somewhere in the general vicinity of Five Forks at least 13 years before any town school-house was built. As no mention of this earlier building appears on the town records it, like the one in the East Village, must have been built by the residents of the District and was never owned by the Town.

May 17. The "Great Frost."

- 1795 May 6. Vote to build three school-houses, "provided the town can agree where they can be set." Recommended, one near Benjamin Brown's [East Village] one near Tidd's barn [North Hancock Street] and one near Major Bridge's rye-field [south part of town].

June 2. Vote to build, and place the three as recommended.

- 1796 Bitter quarrel between the residents of the East Village and the Centre over the location of the school-house. The 1794 Committee took the "old" school-house in the East Village, against the protests of the Villagers, and dragged it to Mason's hill [opposite Munroe Station] where it then was supposed to serve both villages.

Feb. 22. Selectmen approve the bill of Rufus Merriam, 66 shilling, 7 pence, "for drink found the Selectmen when surveying the town."

May 2. Vote to sell the old school-house on the Common — to Nathan Kelley for \$48.50.

- 1796 Town appoints a Committee on the proposed monument.
- 1797 Feb. 6. Reference to bridge over Vine Brook at James Wyman's Fulling-Mill [Lowell Street].
- April 3. Vote to permit private citizens to erect horse-sheds on the Common.
- Dec. 12. Hiram Lodge of Masons instituted at Munroe Tavern.
- In 1806 the officers purchased the land now numbered 1445 Massachusetts Avenue for the purpose of erecting a Masonic Temple. The land was sold in 1815 and in 1843 the Lodge moved to Arlington. (See "*Proceedings*," Vol. IV.)
- Old Belfry sold to the Parker family and moved from the Common to Spring Street.
- 1798 Jan. 4. Residents of East Village again request they be set off as a separate school district.
- Vote to widen bridge over Vine Brook at "Massachusetts Avenue."
- 1799 Feb. 11. Town votes not to straighten "Massachusetts Avenue" up Concord Hill. (To be in place of Lincoln Street and Hastings Road.)
- April 15. Appoint a committee to attend hearing on a proposed turnpike from Cambridge to Concord. (See "*Proceedings*," Vol. III.)
- July 4. Monument on Common is erected. First Revolutionary monument erected in the United States. It cost the Commonwealth \$400.
- Sept. 2. Vote to give a piece of land to the Commonwealth "at north-east corner of the town land near land of Nathan Munroe Jr. "for a new gun house" (rear No. 2018 Massachusetts Avenue).
- Nov. 1 and 11. Thomas Locke and his lands are set off from Burlington to Lexington.
- General Court approves Dec. 30th.

EARLY ROADS AND SETTLERS

To get a picture of the why and where of early roads in Lexington, a clear understanding of the background is very necessary. In 1636 citizens of Cambridge cut a path through the wilderness and settled the Town of Concord. Fifteen families migrated and within a few years, probably twenty-five houses had been built in Concord and what is now Lincoln. By 1655, there were sufficient inhabitants in Billerica and Bedford for that territory to be incorporated as the Town of Billerica. Old Watertown was settled before Cambridge, and Woburn had enough inhabitants to become a separate town by 1642. Thus there were settlements around and beyond Lexington almost before there were a half-dozen houses here.

In 1636 the Cambridge Proprietors granted 600 acres to Richard Herlarkenden (later to Herbert Pelham), which comprised all the lands now Lexington Center. On this lot, near Vine Brook, Benjamin Muzzey built a house — known to have been erected in 1642. But these 600 acres were held undivided until 1693 with the possible exception that John Munroe built a house about 1690 near where the Hancock School now stands. Thus the whole of what is now Lexington Center, remained undeveloped for fifty years.

In 1638 meetings of the General Court were permanently transferred from Cambridge to Boston, and thereafter Cambridge lost its importance to the back country except so long as the residents of what is now Arlington and Lexington had to go to church in Cambridge. The only entrance to Boston by land was over Dorchester Neck so that at a very early date, ferrys from both Charlestown and Cambridge to Boston were established. This condition continued until 1635 when a footbridge was built across the Charles River to Brighton. This bridge was at water-level and was reached by ladders against the banks. There was no bridge sufficient for teams direct from Cambridge to Boston until 1793, one hundred and sixty years after Cambridge was settled. What such conditions can

mean is illustrated by the trips of Judge Sewall, the leading jurist in the Colony, who attended Commencement at Harvard on July 4, 1711, making the trip from Boston to Cambridge in a sloop — and again in 1720 when he records that on the return voyage he landed at the bottom of the Common.

This lack of direct access to Boston, the principal town in the Colony, had its effect upon the roads in the back country. Though the path from Cambridge to Concord was cut through in 1642, so that Concord could be settled, Massachusetts Avenue as we know it, became of less importance. There were only two families in Lexington Center to use it and it only led to Harvard Square, and not to Boston. Thus the two earliest and most important roads were roads which would permit teams to go direct to Boston over Dorchester Neck.

Probably the earlier way was a utilization of the Indian Trail which led from the Shawsheen River in Bedford to the Charles River in Watertown. Where Grove Street comes out in Bedford, there was a shoal in the little stream so that teams could drive across. It is presumed that a trading post was established here at an early date. This road then, would be Grove Street, Hancock Street, Waltham Street, (which came out nearer the Common) as far as Grape Vine Corner, Marrett Road easterly, Stedman Street (past the Franklin School), Allen Street, Blossom Street a little way on old Waltham Street, then east again into what is now Ricci's Lane (beyond Concord Avenue) to Bow Street (at the Waltham line); then into Trapelo Road and thence to Watertown. Here was a ford in the river and once across, the way was clear through Brighton and Muddy Village (Brookline) to Dorchester.

The other "first" road was one to provide access to Boston for the settlers in Lincoln and Concord. This was the old Virginia Road down from Concord as far as where the Paul Revere Tablet is located (in Lincoln on Massachusetts Avenue), then south, through Mill Street coming out on Lincoln Street near Weston Street; thence through Shade Street, across Spring Street and down Cutler's Lane to Concord Avenue at what is now the Cutler Farm. Then across Concord Avenue into the field to the south, and back again across Concord Avenue (which of course, didn't ex-

ist) and along its north side, then across it and coming out again where Mr. John Sellars has his dairy. Thence along the present Concord Avenue, then turning east and down the driveway of the red house, now standing on the corner of Concord Avenue and Waltham Street; then a short distance on the present Waltham Street to Ricci's Lane and thence over the previously mentioned route to Watertown. This road, for obvious reasons, was called the "Ox-bow Road."

It is well known that the largest number of early settlers in what is now Lexington, took up their abode in the south and west sections of the town and it has been stated that they were earlier residents of Watertown (including Waltham) who moved across the line. Perhaps a more logical statement would be that they were attracted to the section because there existed an open and well-traveled way which gave access to the many fields and meadows; for hay was the most essential farm crop.

Gregory Stone owned a grant of 200 acres in 1647 and by 1668, one son had a house on Weston Street, the other son, on Lincoln Street at the foot of Mt. Tabor (then a part of Lexington). Using the best dates available we find the Abbott's and the Merriam's here in 1662. More to the south, toward Waltham, were the Stearn's 1673, Adams' 1702, Smith's 1692, Wellington's 1702, and White's 1709. John Bridge ("The Old House") on Marrett Road had 350 acres in 1639 and a house in 1666.

On the other side of the town, Michael Bacon had a house in Bedford, near the Shawsheen River as early as 1645. The Simonds' family were on Grove Street in 1685 and the Grimes's were beyond them near the Bedford line.

In 1692 the Farmers were set off from Cambridge as a separate church parish and they proceeded to build a church in the center of their settlement where two of the ancient roads crossed, at "Massachusetts Avenue" and the Path to Watertown. This was almost 20 years before there was a Lexington Common. From this date the new roads are those which would bring the farmers to the meeting-house. Lincoln Street, the "Path to Stone's", Woburn Street, called "Roe's Road," for William Munroe was settled near the Woburn line by 1684, the Russells' nearly opposite Utica Street by 1678, and the Fiske's on East

Street by 1678. Earlier they had gone to Cambridge over ancient Lowell Street, a crooked cart path, called the "Path to Captain Cook's Farm." He had a grant of 500 acres in 1639 in the vicinity of upper Lowell Street, but never built on it. There were also the Locke's and the Blodgett's by 1692.

Settlers had also moved into North Lexington and due to its inaccessability, that section was called "World's End." The Reed's were on Valley Road by 1689, Winter's family near the Bedford line by 1675, Lawrence opposite Westview Street as early as 1703, and Fassett opposite "Lexington Park" by 1709. Presumably, the first road for these remote families was from Bedford Street to Grove Street. The Range-way along the side of the hill is still a matter of record. This was superseded by upper Bedford Street (giving access to the clay pits) and North Hancock Street. This latter was more to the south than the present road. The Tidd's were on this latter road in 1683, followed soon after by the Johnson's and Carley's. Other early comers were the Cutler's on Wood Street by 1673, and the Bowman's off Watertown Street as early as 1666.

Against this partial list of the settlers on the outskirts the Muzzey's lived on the Avenue near Vine Brook, Munroe on "Malt Lane" the ancient name for Clarke Street, Comee at Munroe Tavern and Mason near the Munroe Station. The Winship's were near Bow Street, East Lexington and had a mill on the brook at a very early date known to be there in 1727 and probably earlier. Whitmore had a house near the corner of Bow Street and the Avenue by 1676.

In 1662, Cambridge rebuilt the low foot-bridge to accommodate vehicles; this was about where the Stadium Bridge now stands. Then "Massachusetts Avenue" superseded the "Ox-bow Road" and side streets began to appear leading into Massachusetts Avenue. One of the first and most interesting was the old Pleasant Street. This started about 100 feet west of Oak Street and skirted along the side of the hill coming out at the "Peacock Farm," then through "Green Lane" to Walnut Street. Where Mr. William G. Potter lives, the road turned west and ran along the side of the hill to Ricci's Lane. This gave the residents in the south part of town access to lower Massachusetts Avenue. Practically all of this road can still be traced. Old Maple

Street started opposite Tower Road and went down to the back of what is now the Nursery to two houses. This road was later superseded by the present Maple Street which went part way down the hill and then turned North to come out on Woburn Street near Utica Street. These two roads can still be traced. Near Maple Street was the "Path to Bridge's," or, as we call it today, Marrett Road.

At a still later date an important road was the "Concord-Salem Road." This started from Massachusetts Avenue, near the foot of Fiske Hill and went to Hill Street. This cart-road is called "Paul Revere Road" today. Thence down Hill Street and "Cross Street" (now Revere Street) up Hancock Street to Burlington Street; then at "Wood's Corner" over Vine Brook, up the hill toward Woburn and into the street still called "Salem Street" to Stoneham, etc.

What were the ancient roads? A single cart-path and no more. Difficult to travel in winter and often impassible in the spring. Swamps and swamp-lands were always avoided and that is the basic reason why the early roads were so crooked. Brooks were driven through—there were five brooks on Massachusetts Avenue between Arlington Heights and the Common and the last one was not bridged over for many years after Lexington was settled. Records are not easy to follow for roads were not surveyed as we use the term today. A farmer would build on his grant of land, but to reach an existing road he might be required to pass over lands belonging to two or three other farmers. He would then petition the Proprietors, asking that they establish a "way." The Proprietors then appointed a committee of three disinterested persons to view the premises and establish such a road. There would be a meeting with the interested parties walking over the territory and when an agreed "way" was determined, the committee marked it by blaze marks on the trees along the route. The committee would then file a written report of their doings with the Cambridge Proprietors. No distances were given and rarely points of the compass. Quoting part of a typical report:

"We whose names are underwritten were ordered a Comittee to lay out a high Way fro up easterly part of Matthew Bridge's farme into Concord Road; accordingly on May ye twenty-first 1703 we did attend it as followeth.

Begining att Said farme we layd out a high Way two rods wide Bounding of it first with ye land of ffrancis Bowman, Northerly; and ye Meadow of William Munroe, Southerly, untill we were ower a Stone Run of Water and ye Next hill, then turning Southerly marking the way on both sides till we come to John Munroe's Barrs — and from thence to John Addams farme, Bounding of it with ffrancis Bowmans land Northerly and ye Comon land (meaning land not yet allotted to anyone) Southerly, marking of it on both Sides — and from thense through Jno Addams land untill we came into Countrey Road — yt leads from Cambridge to Concord with trees marked on both sides." That's Marrett Road from the John Bridge place, "The Old House," down to Massachusetts Avenue.

Complications almost always followed the laying out of these roads. Persons whose land was taken had to be paid or additional lands given to them to offset their loss. In almost every case, in these early years, when the Cambridge Proprietors made the adjustments, the persons through whose lands the road passed, were given permission to place gates across the road. This kept their own cattle in and the neighbors' cattle out. With the permission to erect the gate went the obligation to keep it in repair. As conditions on the farm might change, a farmer would erect a new gate in a location where he had not secured a "permit," and the records recite many quarrels and lawsuits resulting.

To anyone interested in early Lexington the study of these ancient ways is filled with rewards. Massachusetts Avenue at Arlington Heights, went over Paul Revere Road to avoid the marsh where the street car lines end; at Lexington Common the road from the old monument to the foot of Concord Hill, through soft land, was built over logs and brush, and from the first the section was known as "The Causeway" or "Casey" as early spelling had it. Then the road did not go straight up the hill, but followed Lincoln Street and Hastings Road. From this point old Cedar Street crossed what is now Mrs. F. R. Kimball's lawn to the corner of Hill and Cedar Streets. Valley Road, which gave access to the ancient Reed farm (end of Reed Street), continued on and came out almost at the end of Cedar Street, near the entrance to the Paul Revere Golf Club. Welling-

ton Lane Avenue, which always seems to lead nowhere, was laid out in 1704 to the meadow called "Dunback" so that Samuel Sparhawk could get the hay crop from his extensive holdings to Green Lane. And the little lane leading in from Harrington Lane to the swamp was the "Path to the Goose pasture" — it was not to become a road until Bedford Street was built in 1806. There was no road from Five Forks to Spring Street until 1868.

1800 Population 1006. Number of children aged 16 or under is 546.

March 3. Singing School established "left to the Selectmen to allow the singers a sum of money to be expended in firewood and candles in order to encourage them in keeping a school in case they will engage to sit together after they have learnt."

The school continued as a town function for a number of years.

April 7. Warrant carries the qualification for voters, viz:—"having a free-hold estate within the Commonwealth of the annual income of £ 3 or any estate to the value of £ 60, and aged 21."

May 5. Refuse to erect a school-house in the Scotland District [Woburn and Lowell Streets].

1801 March 2. Selectmen approve their bill, 33 1/3c for "two mugs of sody."

May 18. Appropriate money for a new bell to weigh 800 pounds.

June 23. The bell is hung and the Selectmen approve Rufus Merriam's [Buckman Tavern] bill \$9.86 for 9 meals, 27½ mugs of toddy & 10 mugs punch."

Selectmen approve the appointment of eight inn holders and three retailers.

1802 Muzzey's Hotel, the "Monument House," is built (opposite the end of Waltham Street).

Nov. 1. Town purchases a clock to go on front of gallery in the Meeting-house.

1803 Feb. 7. Committee appointed to urge opposition to proposed Concord Turnpike.

April 4. Vote to buy a hearse and to erect a building for it.

May 23. Instruct their Representative to oppose bill providing for a turnpike from Cambridge to Chelmsford [Lowell Street].

Middlesex Canal is open — Billerica to Charlestown.

1804 May 7. Town votes "NO" on all school-house construction propositions.

June 11. Votes 50 to 24 to build three school-houses; one in the Centre * [there has been none in the centre since 1797], one at "Scotland" and one at "Smith's End;" also, to move the school-house on Mason's Hill, (see 1805) back to the East Village. Also, to move the two old ones [in South and North Districts] to Reed's Quarter [North District] and to Stone's Quarter [West District].

Nov. 5. Vote to locate the school-houses: "Scotland," "between Moses Harrington's and Miss Pierce's, opposite to a wild-cherry tree" [near the corner of Woburn and Lowell Streets]; Smith's End, "on the high land nigh Mr. Underwood's, on land of Capt. Nathan Smith" [Concord Avenue west of Waltham Street]. These buildings are to be 18 x 23 feet and to cost \$333. each. The one in Stone's Quarter, "12½ rods below Mr. Reed's barn." The one in Reed's Quarter, "nigh Mr. John Simonds." Estimated cost of moving these two is \$50. each. The Centre school-house to be set on the Common 40 feet west of the Monument; size 22 x 28 feet.

1805 April 1. Town decides to locate the school-house in Reed's Quarter on Tidd's land [North Hancock Street].

May 6. Decide to locate the school-house in Stone's Quarter "by the 3rd cherry-tree in Marrett's Lane" [off School Street westerly].

"Massachusetts Avenue" up Concord Hill has been built.

Aug. 12. Town votes to exchange the school-house on Mason's Hill for the "Proprietors" school-house in the East Village along with \$100. in cash. (See 1794-1795, etc.)

Nov. 15. Rev. Jonas Clarke dies.

*This was the 3rd. school-house on the Common (see 1821).

- 1806 "Bedford Street" is built. Amos Muzzey builds it for \$2000.
Concord Turnpike and Lowell Turnpike [Street] have been built.
Sept. 7. Stephen Robbins accepts \$20. and agrees that the East Village school-house may stand on his land for 20 years.
Oct. 12. Town Meeting concurs in the call of the First Parish to Rev. Avery Williams as pastor and his salary is fixed at the Town-meeting. His [printed] sermon, delivered March 31, 1813, contains much interesting history of early Lexington.
- 1809 Feb. 14. Resolutions on the condition of the country.
- 1810 Population 1052 and 556 cows.
Jan. 19. Extreme cold, "The cold Friday" from 47° above to 12° below overnight.
Aug. 24. Theodore Parker born.
- 1812 June 15. War declared against Great Britain.
- 1813 Jan. Rufus Merriam commissioned Post-master and opens Post Office in wing of Buckman Tavern. There are 198 families and 158 dwellings in Lexington.
- 1813 and 1814 Bounties provided for all who will enlist.
- 1814 Nov. 28. Earthquake.
- 1815 Jan. 31. Extreme cold — "The cold Tuesday."
Feb. 17. Peace with Great Britain ratified.
Sept. 23. Great gales — much damage to buildings in Lexington.
Oct. 8. Town appropriates \$1000 to cut down "Massachusetts Avenue" over Concord and Fiske hills.

- 1815 John Augustus, originator of the Probation System, becomes a resident.

Cutting and marketing Peat is now a considerable industry.

This was largely at the "Great Meadow." Peat was also cut on the meadow near Bacon Street.

- 1816 Town-meetings taken up with school-house quarrels — reject every proposal.

The school-house on "Marrett's Lane" is moved out onto "School Street."

The famous Cold Year. Frosts in July and August. Snow in June and September. Crops are destroyed.

- 1817 Due to loss of crops in 1816 seeds and grain are sold by count. Much suffering and distress.

Feb. 14. Extreme cold — 20th, very heavy snow.

May 7. General Court incorporates Trustees of the Lexington Ministerial Fund. Fund is \$16,600. and some unsold land.

- 1818 Selectmen approve bill of Nathan Dudley "for 9 Mugs of drink found the Selectmen when some of the town's poor and the ringing of the bell is vended" — both to the lowest bidders.

Aug. Farmers are receiving one cent a quart for milk.

- 1819 School grant is \$900. Town Clerk's salary \$10. — Treasurer & Collector gets \$50. The three "gentlemen assessors" get \$35.66 each.

June 19. Maine is set off from Massachusetts.

- 1820 Population 1200.

A "stove" is purchased for the Meeting-house.

Nov. 6. Committee reports that it is $66\frac{1}{2}$ rods around the Common, that a fence will cost \$99.75

- 1820 and that the Common, when fenced, will rent for \$15. a year. Vote to build the fence.
Vote to build a new school-house in South District, to cost \$200.
- 1821 School-house on Common is moved to "Massachusetts Avenue" near Vine Brook.
Committee appointed to secure a new bell — \$400. appropriated.
May 7. Provision made for a Town School-Committee — the local committees in each district are to continue.
General Court removes property owning qualification for voting.
June 25. Oliver Locke gets the hay on the "Common" for \$5.00.
Determined attempts made to get the toll-gates on Lowell Turnpike removed.
- 1822 "Lexington Rifle Rangers" organized — disband in 1835. (See "*Proceedings*," Vol. II.)
Charter granted and building erected for the "Lexington Academy" [Masonic Building]. (See "*Proceedings*," Vol. I.)
Battle of Lexington re-enacted on the Common. Twenty survivors of April 19, 1775 present.
- 1823 "Janitor" of the Meeting-house is required to "build fires, Sundays and week days, shovel snow, split and carry in wood, ring the bell on Sundays, week-days and for special occasions, and to sweep the lower floor six times a year and the gallery floor four times a year."
- 1824 A "History of Concord" is published in which, referring to April 19, 1775, the statement is made "at Concord the first blood was shed between the British and the armed Americans," and that "the first forcible resistance was made at Concord."

1824 These claims were much resented in Lexington and at a town-meeting called for that purpose a committee was appointed "to collect and publish a statement of such fact as may be calculated to place the transactions of that day before the public in their true light." This committee collected depositions from survivors of the Battle of Lexington and in 1825, Elias Phinney for the Committee, published a "History of the Battle of Lexington." This was reprinted in 1875, thus keeping alive the controversy between the two towns.

It is well worth recording that in 1925, through the efforts of the Chairman of the Concord Committee and of the Chairman of the Lexington Committee every semblance of the long controversy between the two towns has disappeared.

July 4. The East Village has purchased a cannon for its celebrations.

Sept. 2. Lafayette visits Lexington. The Town's bill for entertainment includes

3 7/8 gallons of rum, sugar included	\$5.81
1½ gallons of brandy	3.75
2 5/8 gallons of Madeira Wine	10.50
4 gallons of lemonade	3.00

(See "*Proceedings*," Vol. I.)

Small-pox. Isaac Hastings house used for a "hospital."

Baptists hold first baptismal service, using small pond in Vine Brook near present railroad tracks.

1825 March 4. Vote not to buy two "fire engines."

Nathan Chandler elected first State Senator from Lexington.

William Eustis buried at Lexington. He had been a Minute-man, served two terms in Congress, Secretary of War, Minister to Holland and Governor of Massachusetts. (See "*Proceedings*," Vol. I.)

1826 May 1. Vote \$900. to purchase an organ for the meeting-house, and on May 22 vote to reconsider.

- 1826 Sept. 11. Vote to build a new brick school-house in the West District.
- 1827 March 5. Vote to establish a Juvenile Library and appropriate \$60. for books. First Juvenile Library in Massachusetts.
Cary Family settle in Lexington and remodel old farm-house on the premises.
School-house in East Village is sold; new one built, cost \$450., land \$35.
- 1828 Theodore Parker is paid \$90. for teaching school 15 weeks.
"Brick Store," East Village, is built. First brick building erected in Lexington.
(Many old houses are described in "*Proceedings*," Vols. II and IV.)
- 1829 First Sunday School organized.
May 4. Committee report that they have raised sufficient money by private subscription to purchase two fire engines.
Town appropriates \$190. to build two engine-houses; one on the Common, the other in the school-house yard in the East Village. This latter building was 12 x 20 feet.
Vote \$100. to purchase a bass-viol.
Vote to sell centre school-house [near Vine Brook] and to build a new one. (The old school-house was moved to No. 1415 Massachusetts Avenue, used as a barn; burned 1931.)
Centre school-house is enlarged.
Vote to build a new school-house in the Scotland District; this one and the new one in the centre district cost \$900.
Baptist Church Society organized.
- 1830 Population 1543.
Town elects its first general school committee; previously there had been separate committees for each of the school districts.

- 1830 April 5. Vote to print and distribute a "Town Report" — a single sheet of paper. \$50. appropriated for a survey of the town.
Paupers now required to sweep the Meeting-house.
May 13. The "Dark Day." (See 1780.)
Baptists hold first church services.
- 1831 March 7. Town declines to consider building a "Town-house."
April 5. Vote to purchase $2\frac{1}{2}$ acres for a Cemetery and an entrance; this to be one rod wide [Munroe Cemetery].
The controversy over the Ministerial Fund begins.
Dec. 19. Town appoints a committee to report on the origin of the Fund. 300 copies of the report are distributed.
Lexington Social Library contains 301 volumes.
- 1832 May 29. Vote to buy and erect hay-scales.
Burr and Chittenden are manufacturing clocks in the Harrington House [Bedford Street corner Harrington Road]. (See "*Proceedings*," Vol. III.)
- 1833 "Stone Building" built. (See "*Proceedings*," Vol. II.)
Baptist Church built. First used April 2, 1834. (See "*Proceedings*," Vol. IV.)
Town refuses to consider building a new Meeting-house, or to build a Meeting-house in the East Village.
Nov. 11. General Court establishes the equality of religious sects and repeals state authority over churches.
Until 1833 there was but one church in Lexington — the Meeting-house on the Common. In that year citizens who belonged to the Baptist denomination decided to erect their own church. Subscription papers were gotten out, but the residents of the East Village made up their own subscription papers which called for the church to be built in the East Village on a lot which would be donated.

1833

At the subsequent meeting for organization the Villagers were out-voted and the Society purchased the Viles lot, their present location, and the church was built in that year.

This angered those in the East Village who had contributed (they claimed \$1,000. plus the land) and they filed a vigorous protest. One indignant villager wrote that his subscription was obtained on the basis "of a terrible story that forty men [in the village] had agreed to build a Unitarian Church."

The most prominent person in the East Village was Eli Robbins. The family were deeply interested in the progress and prosperity of the village. He was much concerned in the turn of events which kept the new Baptist Church at the Centre. He, at his own expense, built the building known today as the "Stone Building" for the purpose of providing a hall for worship and public assembly. The family interests ran to anti-slavery, temperance, etc., and for the next few years the villagers were privileged to hear repeated messages from Ralph Waldo Emerson, John S. Dwight, Theodore Parker, A. Bronson Alcott, John Pierpont, and others of the highest caliber. This Society called themselves the Christian Association, not affiliating themselves with any denomination.

With the coming of Dr. Follen, the Society continued to prosper and in 1840 undertook the construction of a church. It was dedicated January 15, 1840. We know it as the Follen Church. On April 18, 1845 they incorporated as The Second Congregational Society.

In the meantime, another society had formed in the village, called the First Universalist Society. They erected a church, dedicated June 10, 1840. We know it today as the "Village Hall" or East Lexington Fire Station. There is almost no information available as to this Society; it did not prosper and the church was seldom used after 1859.

- 1833 In 1865 this Universalist Society terminated its existence by uniting with the Second Congregational Society (Follen Church), the new Society taking the name of "The Church of the Redeemer" and the Follen Church was "enlarged." The building used by the Universalist Society was sold November 6, 1865 to the Catholics who continued to occupy the building until 1873 when they purchased their location on Massachusetts Avenue in the centre and began the erection of their present church. At that time they sold their church in the East Village to the town for fire department purposes.
- 1834 Estimated cost of additional school-house land in centre is \$20.; for a fence around the monument, \$150.
"Marrett Road" is built.
Vote to move the bodies of those slain April 19, 1775 [from back of the Dr. Tilton residence] to the ancient monument, and to enclose the monument with a fence.
- 1835 March 2. Vote to place a new tablet in the face of the monument — to be a copy of the old one. (The old one was thereafter used for many years to close the front of a tomb in the old cemetery. It is now at the Hancock-Clarke House.)
March 30. Again refuse to consider building a new meeting-house in "a more convenient location."
Lexington Academy building is purchased by Timothy Ropes and he opens a "Manual Seminary" [Masonic Hall].
April 20. Bodies of those slain April 19, 1775 are re-interred beside the ancient monument. Impressive exercises; oration by Edward Everett.
June 29. Town Warrant calls the town-meeting in the "Congregational Meeting-house"; the warrant for August 17 calls the meeting in the "Unitarian Meeting-house" — same building, on the Common.

1835 Dr. Charles Follen begins to preach in the "Stone Building." (See "*Proceedings*," Vol. III.)

1836 Controversy over the Ministerial Fund is reaching its height.

June 27. The private owners of the fire engine in the East Village agree to sell it to the town at cost, viz. \$321, "provided no more than that sum is spent for a new one."

Town appropriates \$642 to buy a new engine for the village and to pay for the old one which is to come up to the Centre.

Oct. 5. Heavy snow.

Post Office established in East Village in the "Brick Store."

The Post Office remained in the "Brick Store" until 1867 when Augustus Childs was appointed Postmaster and moved the office to his store in the ancient Adams School building, (see 1858). Later this building was used by Carl Mandelberg as a wagon shop. It was demolished when the Filling Station was built. When the present store building at the lower corner of Curve Street was built, Mr. Childs moved with the Post Office to the new building.

1837 May 8. Town Warrant reads "To see if the town will accept its share of the surplus revenue of the United States and the Commonwealth." Town votes to accept its share and that so much as may be necessary is to be used to erect two new school-houses, one in Centre and one in East Village (see 1858). Any balance remaining is "to be preserved as an Educational Fund toward the support of the public schools."

Sept. 4. Vote to build those two schoolhouses provided they can be built for \$1000 each plus any salvage from the old ones. The old schoolhouse in Centre was sold and moved (is now the residence at No. 35 Waltham Street).

- 1837 Value of boots and shoes manufactured in town is \$12,278; number of fur caps manufactured is 60,000; muffs and neckties (fur), 400; fur gloves, 1000 pair. Value of these articles, \$73,000. 25 males and 75 females employed. Capital invested, \$55,000. This all in the East Village. (See "*Proceedings*," Vol. II.)
- 1838 John Beals is using the Mason's Hill school-house for a wheelwright shop. (Building had been moved from the hill to the lot in front of Munroe Station.)
- April 2. The income from remainder of the State Surplus Fund is now in use for school purposes.
- A proposition is made to divide the income from the Ministerial Fund, after paying Rev. Mr. Swett [at the First Parish], "equally between that part of the First Congregational Society who worship in the Baptist Church and those who worship in Eli Robbins Hall [Stone Building] and those who worship in Cutler's Hall" [Cutler's Hotel on site of the "Rest Inn"]. No action taken. The controversy is aggravated by the fact that the persons attending these other congregations retained their membership and voting rights in the First Parish Society.
- Nov. 12. Vote to paint the two new school-houses and to buy desks and seats.
- Ralph Waldo Emerson is preaching in the "Stone Building."
- First Universalist Society starts building its church (the present East Lexington Fire Station).
- 1839 There is a fire at Joseph Davis' — town voted to pay for refreshments furnished and that "the Fire Wards are to see that refreshments are hereafter furnished when they think necessary."
- June 24. Vote to purchase two hose-carts.
- July 3. First Public Normal School in the United States opens [in the present Masonic Building]. Lexington citizens contribute \$1000. (See "*Proceedings*," Vol. I.)

- 1839 Aug. 14. Great fair [three days] on Mt. Independence to raise money to build a church in the East Village.
General Court abolishes imprisonment for debt.
Sabbath School Library in East Village has 186 volumes.
- 1840 Population 1642.
Jan. 6. Vote to fence the Common with stone posts and rails between; cost \$350.
Follen Church built, dedicated Jan. 15, and on this same day, their minister, Rev. Charles Follen, perishes in the burning of the Steamer "Lexington" on Long Island Sound.
May 4. Vote to purchase a new bell, weighing 1800 pounds.
June 10. Universalist Church, East Lexington, dedicated.
Oct. 13. Vote to build an Armory for the Lexington Artillery Co.
"Adairs Tavern" [site Lexington Trust Company] built about this time.
"Robinson Block" [No. 1768 Massachusetts Avenue] built about this time.
- 1841 Post Office moves to the Davis House (lower corner Massachusetts Avenue and Muzzey Street, now Nos. 8-10 Muzzey Street).
Gibbs Mill burns. On Vine Brook at Lowell Street.
- 1842 "No License" appears in warrant for first time — indefinitely postponed.
Vote \$90. to start a library in each school.
- 1843 May 29. Town refuses to buy a safe.
Regulations adopted for the conduct of town-meetings approved by the General Court, Sept. 12.

- 1843 Town pays for fuel for the Universalist Society [E. Lexington] \$20.; for fuel and ringing the bell, Unitarian Society [E. Lexington] \$40.; and for fuel for Baptist Church \$20. (See special paragraph on Ministerial Fund.)
- 1844 Normal School moves to Newton.
- 1845 March 5. Town-meeting opens with prayer.
March 11. Committee appointed to confer with Hon. Samuel Hoar as to the ownership of the Meeting-house.
March 31. Town votes to accept the Acts of the General Court and this long controversy over the Ministerial Fund is ended. The income from the Fund is to be divided among the then existing churches on the basis of the taxable property of the respective members.
April 18. Second Congregational Society is organized [E. Lexington]. They had previously held services under the name of "The Christian Association."
May 26. Vote to give land in rear of the new cemetery for use of the railroad.
Town purchases the farm on Hill Street, foot of Cedar Street for a Poor Farm. There were additional lands purchased in 1859 and 1872.
- 1846 Lexington and West Cambridge R.R.; Amos Muzzey, Pres.; Larkin Turner, Treas.; built to Lexington Centre. First train Aug. 26, Amos Locke, conductor. Three trains a day, each way. (See "*Proceedings*," Vol. III.)
June 1. Town-meeting held in Vestry of Baptist Church — Meeting-house is being repaired.
Dec. 17. Meeting-house burned.
- 1847 March 1. "Providing the First Parish Society vacate the Common the town agrees to spend \$300 to fence, level and otherwise ornament the Common."

- 1847 Town votes \$1300 "for acquiring Parish rights in the Common and for fencing and ornamenting."

Charlestown tries to buy the Nehemiah Wellington farm [Marrett Street at Spring Street] as a home for its paupers.

Town Hall built (the old High School; site of present Junior High School).

Temperance meetings may be held there free.

Muzzey's Hotel is built [earlier one torn down] "The Lexington House," (Massachusetts Avenue opposite Waltham Street).

For the year ending 1845 there are listed four manufacturers of fur. Value of fur caps, muffs and gloves made is \$34,586. Also manufacture of boots and shoes and tin-ware. There were 20,600 bushels of fruit raised; 1000 cords of wood cut; 2550 tons of hay produced and 300,000 gallons of milk sold.

This, and the item under 1837, are indicative of the commercial activity in this period. For a very considerable period East Lexington far exceeded the Centre in business enterprise. The rivalry between the two sections — at times extremely bitter — lasted well within the memory of those still living.

- 1848 Jan. 11. Bitter cold "30° below 0."

Feb. 28. First Parish Church dedicated — the building cost about \$10,000.

Nov. 8. After holding a public meeting, Selectmen are authorized to name the streets.

- 1849 Charles Hudson, author of the "*History of Lexington*," becomes a resident.

April 2. Proposals for establishing a High School are indefinitely postponed.

Sept. 10. Town Warrant: "To see if the town will improve the channel of Vine Brook under Main

- 1849 Street so as to allow free passage of the water."
Indefinitely postponed.
An Odd Fellows Lodge is meeting over the "Brick Store."
Old Savings Bank building built about this time.
- 1850 Population 1893.
Jan. 2. Vote to build a new school-house in the North District [n/w side of North Hancock Street] — apparently not built until 1852.
Lexington Monument Association incorporated.
"Marrett Road" [E. Lexington to Spring Street] rebuilt, costs \$846.
- 1851 April 16. Great storm (Minot's Light House destroyed).
April 20. Heavy snow.
May 5. Selectmen are authorized to sell the school-house in the Centre District [at Vine Brook] and to purchase a new lot of land on Waltham Street. (Old school-house is sold to Isaac Damon for \$200. — building still stands on its original location and is the two family dwelling 1654-1656 Massachusetts Avenue.)
Aug. Tornado does \$25,000 damage to houses in Arlington.
Waltham Watch Company [the parent company] considers locating on "Marrett Road" near "Bacon Street." (Accepted tradition.)
- 1852 School-house built on Waltham Street [about opposite Vine Brook Road] cost \$2482. School-house built on Concord Avenue, on land of Isaac Child; land cost \$50., the building, \$1395. — old school-house sold for \$53.
April 15. 10 inches of snow.
May 11. Louis Kossuth visits Lexington.

- 1852 May 17. Vote to remove fire engine-house from the Common and put it in the school-house yard on Waltham Street.

Catholics are holding services in the old Town Hall. From 1854 to 1865 their services were held in "Seminary Hall" (No. 1768 Massachusetts Ave.)

In the 40 years from 1820 to 1860, Lexington's population nearly doubled — 1200 to 2339. Yet, in this period, hardly a half dozen came as new residents who (or their descendants) were to become prominent. The town remained principally a farming community. The greatest part of the increase must have been due to Irish immigration. Conditions in Ireland were terrible. There were repeated famines culminating in the historic potato famine in 1846. Between 1841 and 1850 nearly 800,000 Irish came to the United States and in the next ten years over 900,000. Boston was the principal port of entry and it was but natural that Lexington received its share of these new comers.

As a result, by 1854 out of a total of forty-eight births in the town twenty-one were of Irish parentage. For nearly fifteen years this ratio continued so that it is clearly evident that much of Lexington's growth in population from 1820 to 1870 was due to the Irish immigrants and their children.

- Oct. 5. Mary Sanderson dies, aged 104 years, five days. She was 27 at the time of the Battle of Lexington and resided in the house next below the Munroe Tavern. A wounded British soldier was left with the Sanderson household. (See "*Proceedings*," Vol. I.)

General Court enacts law making school attendance compulsory.

- 1853 Vote to build a new schoolhouse in Scotland District [south corner of Lowell and Woburn Streets] cost \$1550. Old one sold for \$75.

June 11. Frost.

- 1854 One hundred-eight oxen in Lexington.
"Farmers' Club" organized—occupy a room in "Robinson Block."
- March 26. Jonathan Harrington dies—last survivor of the Battle of Lexington. There was a very elaborate funeral with many dignitaries in attendance.
- May 8. Appropriate \$500. to start a High School. (See "*Proceedings*," Vol. III.)
- Nov. 13. Abutters on Main Street are allowed to build a "common sewer" [drain down to Vine Brook] at their own expense.
New schoolhouse in West District costs \$1867.
- 1855 The High School opened in a small room on the second floor of the Old Town Hall [site of present Junior High School] and shortly after moved to the street floor. Until 1871 this building was used both for Town Hall and High School.
- May 23. From the Town Warrant: "to see if the citizens will vote to ask the present School Committee to resign"; indefinitely postponed.
Big Cattle Show on the Common.
- 1856 Nov. 17. Selectmen are authorized to build a "Police Lock-up" at the Poor Farm [Hill Street].
Vote to purchase two or more suction fire engines, and \$2100. is appropriated. (The question of purchase of new fire engines had come up two or three times a year for a long time.) Selectmen instructed to sell the old engines and to enlarge the engine house.
Enlarging engine house at East Lexington cost \$335.
New engine house at centre cost \$437.
- 1857 Farmers' Club issues a report urging a Public Library for the Town. They have 200 volumes.
Average attendance in all schools is 312; at Centre 95, at East Village 118.

1857 Jan. 18-26. "Coldest week ever." On the 22nd it was 32° below zero.

Town's financial year closes May 3rd.

May 1. Selectmen report on names for 37 streets — report is referred to the Auditors.

1858 Tolls abolished on bridges, Cambridge to Boston.

April 5. By a vote of 102 to 68, \$1000. is appropriated to continue the High School.

The various school-houses are named, viz:

North District — North Hancock Street —
Bowditch School

West District — School Street — Warren School

South District — Concord Avenue —
Franklin School

East District [Scotland] — Lowell Street —
Howard School

South-East District — East Lexington —
Adams School

Centre District — Hancock School

May 28 and 29, Frost; Aug. 20, Frost.

Nov. 2. Vote to build a new school-house in the East Village and \$3800. is appropriated — dedicated Aug. 26, 1859 (see 1837). Cost \$4000. (The old school-house was sold for \$310. and moved diagonally across Main Street to where the filling station now stands and was used as a store and carriage-factory — demolished when the filling station was built.)

Dec. 6. From Town Warrant: "to see if the town will vote to sell the fire-engines and disband the department." Indefinitely postponed.

Appoint a committee to select a location for a new engine house in the East Village (the old engine house was moved to the back of the vacant lot next below No. 958 Massachusetts Avenue and used for many years as a hen-house.) The fire engine was kept for a while in the basement of Follen Church and then in a building on North

1858 side of Independence Avenue, presumably on land purchased at that time from Ammi Hall for \$135. (See 1873).

1859 Jan. 11. "Coldest day ever known, 40° below 0."
June 4. Frost.

Town's financial year closed April 23rd; town votes that hereafter the "year shall close on March 31st."

1860 Population 2339. Valuation \$1,762,000. Tax rate \$8.00.

April 26. Heavy snow.

May 10. Rev. Theodore Parker dies and is buried in Florence, Italy.

May 20. Frost.

Aug. 22. "Astounding five inches of rain in one hour."

From the Town Warrant: "to see if the town will replace the gravestones destroyed by their agents in the old cemetery." Committee is appointed; they make a verbal report which is accepted and the committee discharged.

A matter which had caused much talk:—A prominent citizen who lived near the old cemetery had not been successful in getting better street drainage in front of his house and it was asserted that he moved the headstones to their present locations where they present a symmetrical appearance but do not mark the actual graves. It was also claimed that other headstones were used to cover a drain from Harrington Road to the brook in the rear of the cemetery.

Cost of boarding inmates at the Alms house is \$1.14 each per week.

1861 April 15. President Lincoln's first call for volunteers.

April 19. Massachusetts troops mobbed in Baltimore.

- 1861 April 30. From the Town Warrant: "to encourage the raising of a military company and to provide for the support of families of those who shall volunteer."
Committee appointed and \$4,000. appropriated.
May 25. Vote not to build an armory.
June 16. White frost.
- 1862 Feb. 25. Gales and thunderstorm.
April 14. Appropriate \$75. toward purchase of a piano for the High School, balance is privately subscribed.
Farmers' Club is authorized to take charge of books belonging to the town. They had moved their library to an up-stairs room in the Captain Phelps' house [site of Lexington Theatre].
July 19. Resolutions on the War. Offer a bonus of \$100. for every man who will enlist for three years.
Aug. 29. Increase the bonus to \$200.
Sept. Death of Lieutenant-Colonel Sullivan Burbank, after 27 years of service in the U. S. Army.
Sept. 22. President Lincoln's first Emancipation Proclamation.
- 1863 April 6. Additional provision is made for the families of those who enlist.
- 1864 April 4. \$2500. appropriated to assist in getting more volunteers.
April 17. Heavy snow-storm.
April 22. Thunder-storm.
June 9. Town appropriated \$3137. to repay private citizens who have advanced money to meet the bonus requirements voted by the town. Total amount paid by the town for bonuses, care, etc., was \$27,000.

- 1864 The ancient school-district system is abolished.
Dr. Dio Lewis buys the "Lexington House" [Muzzey Hotel] and opens his seminary for young ladies (opposite Waltham Street).
- 1865 April 9. Lee surrenders.
April 14. Lincoln assassinated.
April 19. Town hold services for President Lincoln. The Second Congregational Society (Unitarian) and the Universalist Society both in the East Village unite as "The Church of the Redeemer," and use the Follen Church.
May 29. \$500. appropriated for a new hearse.
School appropriation now \$4200. or \$8.50 per pupil.
Nov. 6. Catholic Society purchases from the Universalist Society the present "East Lexington Fire Station" for its church. (See 1838.)
Nov. 7. Vote to sell two fire engines.
- 1866 March 5. Committee appointed to consider the erection of a new town hall.
Lexington Soldiers Aid Society report. They raised and spent \$2,450.00. In addition, articles of clothing and food were contributed of an estimated value of \$3,400.00. This all went to soldiers at the front and to Army hospitals. (See "*Proceedings*," Vol. II.)
June 18. Vote to erect a memorial to those killed in the Civil War.
Bowling flourishes in a building across the tracks [at the centre] near the later location of the turn-table.
Ministerial Fund totals \$39,184. including a pew in the First Parish Church, valued at \$150.
- 1867 American Peat Company assessed on some \$7000. of property. (Their peat works were on the Great Meadow, at the upper end between the

- 1867 "Island" and Maple Street.) There were also peat works off Marrett Road, near Bacon Street.
- Sept. 7. Dr. Dio Lewis' Seminary burns — biggest fire the town has ever had. Over 140 young ladies were attending the seminary but there was no loss of life.
- Post-Office moves to the old Savings Bank Building [1776 Massachusetts Avenue].
- Town votes to print 1000 copies of Hudson's "*History of Lexington*"; issued in 1868.
- Nov. 5. "Granny Hill" is named "Hancock Heights."
- 1868 March 2. Mrs. Maria Cary offers the town \$1000. for the establishment of a free public library. (See *Town Report* for 1872.)
- April 20. Town votes to establish a free public library and to call it "Cary Library," and to spend \$1000. for books when \$400. in money or books is donated. The Farmers' Club gave their library of 500 volumes, 300 more came from a "Social Library" recently formed, and with other donations and purchases the library opened with 1200 volumes.
- Vote that hereafter the town will fire a "National Salute" on April 19th.
- May 30. First Memorial Day.
- Town has total of 38 streets, totaling 65 miles.
- Hancock Church is organized and on May 20th dedicate the present "Masonic Hall" for their use.
- Oct. 1. Rev. E. G. Porter is ordained. Society legally constituted August 17.
- Road from Five Forks, westerly to "Massachusetts Avenue" is rebuilt and on June 1st is named Marrett Road.
- 1869 Jan. 27. Cary Library opens in a room over Whit-cher's Store (site of present Library bulletin board).

1869 March 1. Vote \$60. for books and to pay a Librarian.

Sept. 8. Great gales — many lives lost on the coast.

Sept. 24. "Black Friday."

Nov. 2. Mrs. Cary proposes the erection of a Library Building.

1870 Population 2270. Valuation \$2,254,000. Tax rate \$13.50.

Jan. 25. Committee considering Mrs. Cary's proposal recommend a new Town Hall Building. Town so votes 192-139.

Vote to purchase the land where Dio Lewis' Seminary formerly stood (opposite end of Waltham Street). The land cost \$2300. (See 1867.)

March 7. Black-boards are supplied to the schools.

April 11. Mrs. Cary offers a total of \$20,000. toward the new Town Hall Building, — it to contain the new library.

Some residents of the East Village were so angered because this new Town Hall was not located nearer the East Village, a group of them united in securing an injunction to stop the construction of the building. It cost the Town \$188. to dissolve the injunction. It is well known that certain old residents of the East Village never entered the new Town Hall.

Simon W. Robinson Lodge of Free Masons chartered. The "paint-mine" on the Simond's Farm, off Grove Street, is incorporated as the Lexington & Boston Paint Company — property valued at some \$5000.

1871 March 11. Lexington Savings Bank chartered. Opened for business in Capt. W. D. Phelps' house [site of Lexington Theatre] on June 2nd.

April 19. New Town Hall dedicated [cost \$42,150] with a banquet in the Centre railroad station. Cary Library moves in on street floor. This build-

1871 ing was of considerable size, brick, and four stories high. (See *Special printed report and Town Report* for 1872.)

Aug. 27. Great gales; steeples of two churches in Arlington blown over.

Dec. "Lexington Minute-man" begins publication. Vestry added to First Parish Church.

Lexington-Boston, 8 trains daily and 2 Sundays, each way.

1872 Feb. 14. Committee appointed to protest Arlington's plan to take water from Vine Brook by diverting it across Woburn Street to East Lexington, etc.

Committee appointed to consider drainage and sewerage for the town.

March 4. At the annual town meeting the check list was not used when electing the moderator. A defeated candidate for Selectman petitioned the Supreme Court who invalidated the entire election and enjoined the elected Selectmen from acting. A second election was held and other men were elected, including the earlier defeated candidate. This affair cost the town about \$700.

April 25. The plans of the Lexington Monument Association for a new monument sixty feet high to be placed on the Common have come to an end.

National dignitaries were sponsors and funds had been solicited on a nation-wide basis. But better judgment prevailed and it was realized that the simple monument erected in 1799 was more appropriate than anything which could be offered in its place. Such funds as remained in the hands of the Committee and additional funds then raised in the Town were used to purchase the statues of Hancock and Adams to be placed in the new Town Hall (now in the Cary Memorial Building).

This ended a most regrettable affair. The members of the Association could destroy their unused

- 1872 certificates of membership [measuring 18 x 30 inches] which alone had cost \$2,000, and hope the whole affair would be forgotten.

This satisfactory conclusion was largely due to the efforts of Mrs. Cary through her gift of the Library and considerable gifts toward the costs of the new Town Hall. These interesting matters are treated at length in the special booklet issued at the dedication of the Town Hall in 1871, in the Town Report for 1872, and the "*Proceedings of the Centennial Celebration*," in 1875.

Aug. 21. A proposal to extend Muzzey Street to Spring Street is defeated.

Town appropriates \$1000. to build a drain in "Massachusetts Avenue", from the Common to Vine Brook (see 1854). A proposal for a sewer in the same location is defeated.

Town votes to petition the Legislature for authority to drain the meadows on each side of the centre village, by lowering Vine Brook and the brook under Bedford and "Revere" Streets, and to take the waters of Vine Brook for a domestic water supply.

Serious out-break of small-pox.

Nov. 9-10. The great Boston fire.

- 1873 Ninety consecutive days of sleighing.

Railroad extended from Lexington to Concord.

March 3. Town votes to take over all street-lights. They had been privately owned.

Dog license fees first applied toward support of Cary Library.

Town votes to "pass over" acceptance of the drainage act.

Selectmen are instructed to give historic names to streets, the first one named to be "Clarke."

\$600. appropriated for a "gas-engine" and burners for the town hall.

1873 \$1000. appropriated for the purchase of statues of a Soldier and a Sailor of the Civil War to be placed in the "Memorial Hall."

Town buys the Catholic Church in the East Village for \$3500 (present Adams Engine House.) (See 1838.)

Vote to sell old engine house and land on Independence Avenue.

Appropriate \$1000. to purchase a "Babcock" Fire Extinguisher.

May 3. Heavy snow.

Town Treasurer found \$3000. short in his accounts; resignation demanded and accepted — restitution made.

Aug. Catholics purchase the Davis Estate on "Massachusetts Avenue" for \$6000. (present location of the church). Services held for a time in the house.

Work on lowering the two brooks has begun — differences arise — land owners refuse to pay betterment taxes. Some residents sue the Town for damages.

General Court passes first law permitting towns to provide free school text books. Up to this time text books were paid for by the parents.

Savings Bank moves to back part of Selectmen's Room in Town Hall.

Town of Arlington purchases the "Great Meadows" for its water supply. Diverts Brown's Brook to an underground culvert extending from the East Lexington Railroad Station to near Bow Street. Diverts Munroe's Brook through a short tunnel to Sucker Brook (replaced by a larger and lower culvert in 1922).

Arlington Heights Reservoir built.

Emperor William confers the Iron Cross on Mrs. Von Olnhausen, [Mrs. Mary P. Finney] for services in the Franco-Prussian War. She had previously served as a nurse in the Civil War.

1874 Bitter row over the drainage situation.

May. "Central Block" is completed by John L. Norris.

Post Office moves to "Central Block."

Nov. 3. Town appropriates \$50. to build a lock-up in Adams Engine House and \$750. for a Babcock Fire Extinguisher.

Selectmen report that Congress had granted the town 10 six-pound condemned cannon; that they have sold enough of them to realize \$1700., same to go toward paying for the statues. (One cannon kept — is now in Cary Memorial Building.)

Nov. 30. Town is now considering that the best way out of the drainage mess is for it to assume all costs.

First "Lexington Minute-men" organized.

Legislature passes law permitting women to become eligible for School Committee.

1875 Plant of Lexington Gas Company started (across tracks at centre Railroad station).

April 19. Great celebration of the Centenary of the Battle of Lexington.

On the previous Sunday special commemorative services were held in all the churches. The 19th was pleasant but very cold, the thermometer not going above 26° all day. The principal exercises, orations, etc., were held in a tent on the Common with a seating capacity of 7000. Beside it was the tent in which the banquet was served, with places for 3700. As both were unheated there was much discomfort and the food quickly chilled. Among the distinguished guests who were able to reach Lexington and participate in the exercises were President Grant, Vice-President Wilson, the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, the Secretaries of State, Army, Navy, Interior and the Postmaster General, Governor Gaston and Edward Everett Hale. The unveiling of the statues of Hancock

1875 and Adams was a special feature and one which had given the committee much concern for both statues came from Europe, one arriving early on the 18th, the other not until into the night, having been brought over the road from New Bedford.

It is generally conceded that 100,000 persons reached Lexington and that as many more were unsuccessful in their efforts. The railroad (single-track) was completely unable to handle the crowds and the roofs of all the cars were covered with passengers. The horse-cars came as far as Arlington Center and thousands walked the rest of the way, or turned back. Most of the notables had earlier been to Concord and then drove over the road to Lexington. It took Governor Gaston and his escort over three hours to make the trip. The main streets for a distance of two miles from the Common were so densely crowded that the honored guests and the great parade had every difficulty in getting through.

The exercises closed in an unusual way. At ten in the evening a little group gathered at the Common and assisted President Grant in planting an elm tree.

The expenditures incident to the celebration were \$18,000., less receipts of \$8700., resulting in a net cost to the town of \$9300. For an extended account of this great celebration, conducted by a village of 2500 inhabitants, see the considerable booklet published by the town.

April 24. Cutler's Hotel burns (site of Rest Inn, East Lexington).

First Town Seal adopted.

Town appropriates \$500. to purchase a hook and ladder truck, and \$2,000. to purchase land on Meriam Street, and to build an engine house. (The old one, on the Hancock School grounds on Waltham Street was later sold and is now the residence at No. 6 Fletcher Avenue.) Meriam Street lot cost \$325.

1875 \$229. is appropriated for piping 66 street lights for gas.

July 15. William Garret notifies the Selectmen that he is willing to present the old Harrington House to the town. The Selectmen decline the gift. (This was the home of Daniel Harrington, clerk of the Minute-men, on Harrington Road.) The house was torn down before the end of the year.

Nov. 2. Town receives gift of the tongue of the bell used April 19, 1775 to summon the Minute-men from John L. Chandler of Dallas, Texas.

Bloomfield Street is laid out.

Nov. 27. Corner-stone of the Catholic Church is laid; building not completed for some years afterward.

Lexington stands second in the state in milk production.

Highway department equipment consists of "one colicky horse and a cart;" highway employees receive \$1.50 a day.

1876 Engine-house on Meriam Street is occupied.

March 25. "Centennial Hotel" opens ["Rest Inn," East Lexington] site Cutler's Hotel. (Demolished in 1944.)

March 21. Heavy rains, \$1000. damage to culverts, Bedford Street closed.

Town instructs Selectmen to settle the drainage suits. Gas Company fails; town goes back to kerosene lights.

May 25. Lexington Minute-men disband.

Reed Street laid out.

Lexington Field and Garden Club organized.

Interest rates on town debt 6½% and 7%.

1877 In this year alone, 1876 tramps are fed at the lock-up. Old Hancock Engine-house sold for \$90. (See 1875.)

1877 \$8000. has been spent in lowering the two brooks and in legal expenses.

March. Joshua Hobart, residing in the East Village, loses his election bet and pays by wheeling a barrel of oysters from Lexington to Providence.

1878 The Drainage Act was never legally accepted by the town. In March the town secured a new Act under which the town proceeded to settle and pay all suits against the town and the town officials, and to return such few betterments as had been paid.

Very wet summer. Selectmen get what consolation they can by reporting "Those who might have had relief now [by continued work on the brooks] have the pleasure of regretting the loss of an opportunity rejected."

Lexington Brass Band is rehearsing in hall over centre Engine-house.

The Massachusetts Building at the Centennial Exposition at Philadelphia is purchased by Mr. Muzzey—taken apart and brought to Lexington. It is set up again on "Massachusetts Avenue" below the old town hall, and in August 1878, opens as the "Massachusetts House."

1879 By economy in appropriations, and by using \$10,000. free cash in the treasury, the amount appropriated to carry on the town departments is reduced from \$33,000 [in 1878] to \$18,000., with a corresponding reduction in the tax rate from \$14.20 to \$8.00.

Six women are assessed that they may vote for School-committee.

Nov. 4. Major Pitcairn's pistols are presented to the town by Mrs. Elizabeth Putnam of Cambridge, N. Y. (He commanded the British Troops on the Common, April 19, 1775.)

1747 tramps are lodged and fed at local lock-up — on a diet of salt fish and crackers. Selectmen report, "it is an open question whether it would be better

- 1879 to secure a less popular janitor or to make another reduction in the bill of fare." (See 1876-77 and 1896.)
- 1880 Population 2460. Valuation \$2,389,000. Tax-rate \$10.70.
- April 5. Town votes to construct some large underground cisterns for fire protection purposes "when abutters agree to pay one-half the cost." (At least three were built.)
- Ray's Rope Walk a busy spot. (This was located on the meadow south of Waltham Street opposite Allen Street.) Building was 350 feet long — horse-power used.
- Old Baptist Church enlarged.
- 1881 Women's Suffrage Committees are active.
- Jan. 27. Ordination and installation of Russell H. Conwell at the Baptist Church.
- March 7. Town votes 16-2 to petition Legislature for an act to permit women to vote in town affairs and to hold town offices.
- New flag-pole on Common, cost \$502.
- May 12. Lexington Water Company incorporated. Purchase land south of Lincoln Street and erect brick pumping station, and a small standpipe on Concord Hill.
- Oct. 31. Mrs. Maria Cary dies.

THE CARY FAMILY AND LEXINGTON

For nearly 120 years the Cary family, with its numerous branches, has evidenced a deep interest in the Town of Lexington and their generosity is attested by the Cary Memorial Library, the Cary Memorial Building, the Cary Lectures and the Cary Educational Fund. No member of the family resides in Lexington at this time and a record of their benefactions has never been published. As a part of the town history, at least a partial record is herein set forth.

In 1827 Jonathan Cary, whose family had resided in Charlestown for generations, purchased 20 acres of land and buildings called the "Peak Farm" from John Hastings. This farm was off Shade Street. Adjoining this was the farm of about 142 acres on Lincoln Street belonging to Isaac Hastings.

Jonathan Cary, now a property owner, was married three times and had nine children. His third wife was Abigail, daughter of his neighbor, Isaac Hastings. As head of this family of nine he had a son by his second wife, William Harris Cary, who married Maria Hastings, the sister of his father's wife. Jonathan's daughter Mary, also by the second wife, married John Hastings, a brother of Maria and Abigail Hastings.

Thus the Cary family intermarried with one of Lexington's oldest and most esteemed families and really belonged to the town. William Harris Cary and his brother, Isaac Harris Cary, operated a store in Boston whence they removed to New York where they became prosperous importers.

William Harris Cary and his wife, Maria Hastings Cary, had no children but adopted Alice Butler who was a niece of Joseph T. Sanger, a partner in the firm. While residing in Brooklyn they retained their interest in Lexington, increased their holdings and made frequent and long visits to the Cary homestead.

Maria Hastings Cary had a deep and sincere interest in Lexington. Her first outright gift was \$1000. in 1868 to found a library. She next provided a solution of the difficulties of the Monument Association by the suggestion that in the proposed Town Hall there be a Memorial Room; and at the Town Meeting in November 1869 offered a gift of \$6000. for that purpose. Again in 1870, when the plans for the building were progressing, she increased her gift to \$10,000. for the building, \$6,000. for the library and \$4,000. for the Memorial Hall. Later, quoting the "*Lexington Union*" of February 1881, — "through her interest and aid in all public enterprises the Massachusetts State Building at the Centennial Exhibition was removed from Philadelphia to Lexington."

In 1871 Mrs. Cary gave \$5,000. more to the library and by her will left \$5,000. to the library and a similar amount to the First Parish Church. Her will mentioned twenty religious and charitable societies for legacies totaling \$115,000.

"Every enterprise or interest of her native town has had her active sympathy and generous support. The churches have all had their burdens lightened by her hand and every charity was sure of remembrance." How sincerely she was loved and respected in Lexington was evidenced first by a Union Memorial Service of all the churches held on the Sunday evening following her death, and by the unusual proceeding of adopting resolutions at the Town Meeting November 8, 1881.

Miss Alice Butler Cary, the adopted daughter, lived on the homestead for many years, increasing the farm until it comprised 200 acres. She built the present Cary Mansion. Miss Cary carried on the family interest in the town and in 1905 gave the present Cary Memorial Library Building, other members of the family giving the land.

Isaac Harris Cary, brother of William Harris Cary (don't confuse Harris with Hastings) lived on Boylston Street, Boston, and later in Jamaica Plain, but like other members of his family, came here with his children for frequent visits, and the town had a deep place in their affections. His daughters, Susanna E. Cary and Eliza Cary Farnham, left, in their wills, the largest benefaction the town has ever received as a memorial to their father.

These bequests paid for the Cary Memorial Building and the income from the remaining principal provides an annual series of lectures and concerts, the "Cary Lectures." It also furnishes assistance to young men in advancing their education and is commonly known as the "Cary Educational Fund."

Thus has one family furthered the advancement of the whole community. Every citizen of Lexington should be aware of this fact and regard the Cary family with real affection.

- 1881 Rev. Carlton A. Staples installed at First Parish Church. (See *Proceedings*," Vol. III.)

Horse-racing very popular. O'Neil's & Middleby's half-mile tracks are busy. In winter there is many a brush on "Massachusetts Avenue" from the Monument to Lincoln Street, mostly local participants.

- 1882 "Russell House" opened (east corner Massachusetts Avenue and Woburn Street).

Oakland Street started.

Meriam's Factory in operation (Oakland Street — now Adams Press).

Telephone extended to Lexington — six subscribers.

Town buys additional land for "Munroe Cemetery."

Coal-yards have been built, opposite center Railroad station.

- 1883 May 4. First Episcopal services are held in Dr. Lawrence's house, Fair Oaks, and the society is organized. Later the old school-house [1654-56 Massachusetts Avenue] is used for their meetings.

Town elects a Board of Health.

Great Meadows burn—worst peat fire on record.

Mr. Muzzey erects building for grain and lumber business (rear of 1775 Massachusetts Avenue).

April 19. Cary Branch Library opens in [old] Adams School building.

May. Mr. F. B. Hayes starts construction of the "Castle." He came to Lexington in 1861, first residing at No. 45 Hancock Street (house demolished in 1939) and soon his holdings comprised 194 acres of land. The "Castle" built of stone and having seven floors, was demolished in 1941. (See 1900-1903.)

Oct. 12. Addition to the "Russell House" completed. The old flag pole from the Common is put up in front of the Adams Engine House and it is im-

- 1883 mediately blown down. Selectmen "hope to put it up again next spring."
George D. Robinson, born in Lexington in 1834, is elected Governor of Massachusetts.
- 1884 H. E. Holt's Music School established — to continue over 15 years.
Town appropriates \$1500. to mark places of historic interest.
Aug. Lexington Water Company begins laying mains and erect a standpipe 36 feet high and holding 63,000 gallons, on Concord Hill.
Whitcher & Muzzey erect Grain-mill (rear 1757-1775 Massachusetts Avenue).
- 1885 There are 1320 cows in Lexington.
March 2. Town appropriates \$100 for a "preliminary survey of a system of sewerage and drainage."
Vote to buy a new hose wagon.
April 15. Town appropriates \$1500. for an addition to the High School building.
Oct. 15. Episcopal Church Society incorporated.
Nov. 3. First approval of lay-out of some streets on Munroe Hill.
Dec. 3. Vote to extend Clarke Street from Forest Street to Parker Street.
Selectmen report they have "vigorously opposed" a plan to extend Reed Street through Tophet Swamp to Bedford.
About this time some 40 feet are cut off lower end of Centre RR station. It had been used to house the locomotive. "Roundhouse" and turntable built across the tracks.
- 1886 Follen Church is so named.
Rev. Cyrus Hamlin, founder and President of Robert College in Constantinople, becomes a resident of Lexington.

- 1886 Lexington Historical Society organized. It purchased [and owns] the Sandham painting, "Dawn of Liberty," unveiled August 11.
- B. & M. R.R. completes double tracks — Boston to Lexington.
- Episcopal Church erected — first service therein on June 24.
- Catholic Parsonage built.
- Chemical Engine purchased for \$450. and placed at East Village.
- April 5. Selectmen authorized to sell the Hand tubs (purchased in 1856). The "Hancock" went to Groveland and was eventually sold for junk. The "Adams" went to Brownville, Me. In June 1930 the Lexington Historical Society purchased the "Adams" and placed it in the custody of the East Lexington fire company.
- Committee appointed to appear before the Legislature to oppose the bill filed by City of Boston to take the Shawsheen River for its water supply.
- Re-grading and improvements at the Common have cost \$1725.
- First Superintendent of Schools is employed.
- Hancock School badly over-crowded.
- New contracts with Lexington Gas Company at \$68. a month for not exceeding 85 street lamps. Still have oil lamps in East Village.
- May. All members of the fire department resign.
- Aug. 9. Railroad Commissioners order gates placed at R.R. crossings on Meriam, Hancock and Woburn Streets.
- 1887 Lexington Toboggan Club organized. Slide, from Warren Street to Railroad tracks.
- March 7. Miss Ellen A. Stone first woman elected to School Committee.
- March 31. Selectmen recommend to the B. & M. R.R. that they abandon Peirce's Bridge and East Lexington stations and establish a new station at

1887 some convenient point between the two. (It is an interesting speculation as to what effect this would have had on the growth of the East Village if it had been done in 1846.)

May. Hancock Church Society votes to buy its present site on "Massachusetts Avenue."

June. Consecration of the Episcopal Church.

Oct. 13. William A. Tower offers the town a library building, if the town will provide a site.

Mrs. Cary, at the same meeting, offers the town \$10,000. toward securing a site.

Mr. Tower's offer carried a proviso that the Library Trustees drop out and the entire property, trust funds, etc., be turned over to a "Library Corporation." The impression developed that Mr. Tower had certain prejudices, and an extremely bitter fight arose that lasted two years. In 1889 there were six candidates for Selectmen, three pledged to support the library plan and three opposed. The latter were elected by a substantial majority. There were appeals to the courts, and a permissive Act secured from the Legislature. The Supreme Court, in May 1890, decided the Trustees could not transfer their trust and that the legislative act was unconstitutional. The feeling in opposition to Mr. Tower's plan for a "Corporation" ran so high he withdrew his offer.

1888 March 5. Town appropriates \$200. more for drainage study.

March 11-14. Great blizzard. (New York City completely isolated for two days.)

March 22. Committee appointed to consider buying out the Lexington Water Company.

June 4. Name of Bowditch School changed to Tidd School (North Hancock Street).

First Lexington Directory is issued.

- 1888 Town votes to have its financial year end December 31st. It had been January 31st.

Town decides to widen "Massachusetts Avenue" from Arlington line to the Common.

Nov. Mr. Grant buys land on Fletcher Avenue and Hayes Lane to erect a machine-shop (Jefferson Union Co.).

General Court provides for the use of the Australian Ballot.

- 1889 Lexington Gun Club practicing on Parker Street field.

March. Town appropriates \$4500. for land damages in widening "Massachusetts Avenue." A considerable part of this was due to the destruction of the residence of Mr. George O. Smith [colonial home of Solomon Brown] at Brown's Brook, East Lexington. (See "*Proceedings*," Vols. II and III.)

Committee appointed to consider a new building to replace Hancock School.

April. Work started on the removal of "Cottrell's Ledge" [opposite Cary Memorial Building] which extended to the center of "Massachusetts Avenue," half the road going up over the ledge.

July 4. Circus comes to town, "first time in 40 years."

- 1890 Population, 3197. Valuation, \$3,378,000. Tax rate, \$12.10.

"Mud-time," New England's "fifth season."

When the mud on the streets dried up to be followed by two inches of dust the watering-carts appeared. "Street-watering" was a hardy annual at town meeting. Should only the main street be watered, should the watering-cart go down to the Arlington line, should the abutters pay part of the costs, and should there be a small appropria-

- 1890 tion hoping for a wet summer? These matters were well debated at every annual town meeting for many years.
- May 29. Town votes to buy land and build a new Hancock School.
- Drainage Committee recommend construction of a sewerage system for the center of the town with filter beds off Grant Street on the race-track, and that East Lexington connect with the Metropolitan System.
- Dec. 1. Hancock School on Waltham Street destroyed by fire.
- 1891 March 16. Australian Ballot first used.
- Town gives Lexington Historical Society permission to place the Old Belfry on the new Hancock School lot on Clarke Street. Placed there in April.
- Town insists that the Lexington Gas Co. remove its wooden pipes in the streets and replace them with iron pipes.
- Town appropriates \$1000. to remove the ledge at the entrance to Clarke Street and to grade the street.
- May 13. Baptist Church burns. Baptists are given free use of Town Hall.
- Oct. Miss Ellen A. Stone offers to give to the Trustees of Cary Library the mansion house and land, next below Follen Church, for \$2000. to be used for a branch library. (The Branch Library then on second floor of the "Brick Store.")
- Sept. Meagher buys Tophet Swamp and vicinity.
- Nov. 14. New Hancock School completed, cost \$61,000.
- Lexington Land Co. organized to develop Munroe Hill, plan issued in May 1892.
- Dec. Work started on new Baptist Church.
- Dec. Widening of "Massachusetts Avenue" completed except a section below Oak Street.

- 1891 Dec. 25. Christmas party for every child in Lexington, given by Mr. F. B. Hayes in his new stable.
All district school buildings are closed.
Drain laid in Clarke Street, Hancock School to Vine Brook.
- 1892 Hunt Building erected; Rankin House moved to Cottage Street and store building on east end of lot moved to Depot Square.
- March 7. Town accepts Miss Ellen A. Stone's gift, appropriates the \$2000. and names the building the "Stone Building."
- April 25. Town appropriates \$50. for a fire whistle to go on the Pumping Station, Lincoln Street.
Lexington Gas Co. petitions for permission to erect poles and to run wires for electric lights. Power plant to be erected.
- June. Old Belfry Club organized.
- July 26. Corner-stone Hancock Church is laid, Augustus Wellington house moved to Parker Street at entrance to Playground.
- Town Report says "a letter-box has been placed on the outside door of the Police Station [basement of Town Hall] so that during any absence of the officer, communications may be dropped in the box and have prompt attention."
- Keeley Institute purchases the "Massachusetts House" and establishes its cure for inebriety.
- 1893 Aug. Electric car line extended from Arlington Centre to Arlington Heights.
First Finance or Appropriation Committee.
Town buildings wired for electric lights.
Town is torn over the proposal to change name of Mt. Vernon Street to Percy Road.
Town appropriates \$700. to build a new drain in Massachusetts Avenue; Waltham Street to Vine Brook.

1893 Town appropriates \$3000. to change street lights from gas to electricity.

New Baptist Church dedicated June 29.

Committee recommend purchase of land for a new cemetery.

Color-guards formed in the schools — first in the United States.

East Lexington Brass Band organized.

Lexington Drum Corps organized.

1894 Number of houses in Lexington, 685; number of horses, 708.

Jan. 9. Telephone Exchange opened in the Hunt Building with 30 subscribers.

Here was the first installation in the world of a single common battery to supply electric current for all lines. Previously power for each line was supplied by a battery in each subscriber's home. Power to charge this common battery was supplied by Whitcher's Grain Mill.

There are many meetings and reports relative to the inadequate water supply — and on the question, "should the town buy out the Lexington Water Company?"

Jan. 24. Old Belfry Club-house dedicated.

April 19th made a legal holiday.

Name of "Massachusetts Avenue" is given to streets from Dorchester to Concord.

The chemical fire engine is equipped so it can be drawn by horses; still rely on livery stable and neighbors for the horses.

"Hastings Park" purchased by the Lexington Field and Garden Club "for the use of the inhabitants of Lexington forever" (See 1897).

Town appropriates \$2000. for a fire alarm system.

Main and Monument Streets are named Massachusetts Avenue.

1894 July. Lexington Council, Knights of Columbus organized.

Sept. City of Cambridge takes Hobbs Brook and lands near Mt. Tabor for its water supply.

Oct. 2. Town contracts with the State to rebuild Middle Street (Marrett Road). First "state road" built in the Commonwealth.

Arlington builds a Pumping Station opposite East Lexington Railroad Station.

1895 Jan. 23. Cary Homestead burns.

Lexington Minute-man Bicycle Club off on its "century runs."

April 1. Town appropriates \$6000. to buy a steam fire-engine, chemical and hose, and to remodel centre engine-house to accommodate horses.

April 27. Winthrop Road accepted.

Stone crusher bought for \$2500; placed at north corner of Waltham Street and "Marrett Road."

Continuous and vigorous agitation over the water question.

Lexington Golf Club organized, club-house was in the barn that stood back of Munroe Tavern. The links were over Munroe Hill, across "Marrett Road."

June 29. Town votes to purchase the Lexington Water Company.

Oct. 28. \$200,000. is appropriated to pay for it.

At a later meeting, in 1896, the town voted to refund the debt so that none of the bonds were to be paid during the first ten years. The last of this debt was not paid until 23 years after the Lexington Water Co. supply was abandoned.

Boston Female Asylum purchases the residence No. 2117 Massachusetts Avenue on Concord Hill and "intends to send 25 to 100 girls to our schools."

Middle Street so called "State Road" [Marrett Road] is nearly completed to Waltham Street.

1895 The Assessors are rubbing their heads over Meagher's development of lands off Reed Street and Tophet Swamp. So far 300 actual sales made [lots are each 2500 sq. ft.] representing "all kingdoms and tribes on earth." By 1902 there were over 700 lot owners of record, with taxes ranging from seventeen cents up.

Lexington Savings Bank buys the Smith-Meserve property [its present location] and on Oct. 1st moves into the old building on the lot.

Oct. Cary mansion started.

Fire alarm system completed.

1880 - 1895

Control of town business affairs remained in the hands of the old families and the farmers. Their chosen officials were men of the highest integrity and they gave to the town an efficient government, satisfactory to the older element. The two men who stand out as the representatives of this older element were Webster Smith, who served 17 years as Selectman, and Albert W. Bryant who served 25 years.

The new-comers, many of whom were exceptionally able businessmen, felt that the town should adopt "modern" business methods in its municipal affairs. The leader in these demands was Leonard K. Bennink. Some little changes were made and, via the School Committee and Library Trustees, the newer element secured actual representation on Town Boards.

The first outstanding achievement of the newer element was at the annual election in 1893 when they were successful in the passage of a vote to establish an "Appropriations" or "Finance Committee." The suggested plan was mild enough — all the principal town boards were to be represented thereon. However, Mr. Webster Smith as chairman of the Selectmen publicly advised that he would not sit in judgment on his own acts or of those of his associates, and he never met with or recognized the existence of the "Finance Committee."

At the annual town meeting the next year (1894) the tide ran the other way and the proposal to have a "Finance Committee" was voted down. But the ice had been definitely broken — the newcomers, when united, were of sufficient strength to bring about the changes in town government to make and keep it "modern." The change was in methods, not men, for most of the town officials (other than the School Committee) continued to be chosen from the "older" element for quite some years. But if one wishes a definite date when Lexington changed from a country village to a suburb of Boston the Annual Town Meeting in 1893 seems to meet the requirements.

The 1850 census of Lexington gave the town 2460 inhabitants. The rate of growth since the first census in 1790, was about 17 persons per year.

In the years from 1850 to 1880 only about ten families moved in who were to have any important hand in the development of the town—men like George O. Whiting, George W. Robinson, Benjamin F. Brown, Matthew H. Merriam, Francis B. Hayes, Rev. E. G. Porter, Augustus E. Scott, George W. Taylor.

But beginning about 1880 the rate of growth shows a real tendency to increase and to the great good fortune of the town, many of these new comers became greatly interested in the town and were active leaders in the community.

1896 Jan. Unity Lend-a-Hand organized.

March 2. Town buys a steam-roller (cost \$2500.).
Earlier one was rented.

Layouts of Warren and Washington Streets, Bennington Road and Highland Avenue accepted.

First appropriation for preservation of the ancient town records.

March 26. Rev. Charles F. Carter installed at the Hancock Church.

Drainage Committee still favor filter-beds; estimate an expenditure of \$50,000. will care for center of town and an estimated population of 7500.

Lay-out of Pelham and Eliot Roads accepted.

April 27. Town elects its first Board of Water and Sewer Commissioners.

Town appropriates \$200. to fix up lands back of Parker Street for a playground; these lands were acquired with the purchase of the Lexington Water Company.

Tidd School re-opened to relieve crowded conditions at the Hancock School.

May. Fire at the Keeley Institute.

May. Boston Female Asylum opens. (See 1895.)

Through the efforts of the Rev. Carlton A. Staples, the Lexington Historical Society, and by generous contributions from non-residents, the Hancock-Clarke House is purchased, land bought and the house moved to its present location across the street from its original site. (See "*Proceedings*," Vol. III.)

Boston Elevated Railway double tracks to Arlington Heights.

1897 Town accepts deed of Hastings Park (see 1894).

Lay-out of Sherman, Sheridan and Grant Streets accepted.

1897 April 5. Town votes to petition the Legislature for an Act to permit the town to enter the Metropolitan Sewerage System.

April 28. First annual meet of the Lexington High School Athletic Association.

Nov. 2. Town meeting gives an expression of opinion as to whether the Lexington Street Railway Co. shall have permission to lay tracks in the streets. In favor 369, opposed 186. Selectmen grant permission.

1898 Feb. 15. Battle-ship "Maine" blown up.

Feb. 5. Town accepts the new sewerage act.

March 7. Selectmen instructed to abolish grade crossing at Grant Street.

Town accepts bequest from Francis B. Hayes of \$10,000. for a Fountain.

Vote "indefinite postponement" on appointment of a committee to study the lay-out of a road from Lexington centre to Arlington Heights, "southerly of and more or less parallel to Massachusetts Avenue."

April 2. Town appropriates \$2000. to raise Village Hall three feet to accommodate fire department apparatus.

May 20. and again June 2, sewerage system proposals are defeated.

Aug. 4. Contract made with Henry H. Kitson for the Minute-man Statue (the Hayes Fountain bequest).

Water supply still seriously inadequate.

Nov. 26-27. The great blizzard. (S.S. "Portland" lost.)

Stand-pipe built on "Honeysuckle Rock," East Lexington. 36 feet high, capacity 186,000 gallons.

William H. Winning leaves his farm [140 acres] on Lowell Street as a home for orphan and destitute children.

1899 Committee appointed to consider erection of a new high school.

June 23. Adverse action again on the sewer.

August. Work on tracks for the street railway is started.

John F. Hutchinson has the first automobile in Lexington.

Sept. Kindergarten erected on Forest Street (now the Christian Science Church).

Oct. 22. Hancock Church is "out of debt" and the building is dedicated.

Nov. Town votes not to purchase the Lexington Gas Company.

The gas-house, across the tracks from the Centre R.R. Station was demolished in 1911.

Dec. Town stipulates an underpass for the street railway at North Lexington.

Fire Department has sold its two old chemicals and bought a second-hand ladder truck.

1900 Population, 3831. Valuation, \$5,182,000. Tax rate, \$15.00.

Jan. Lexington Golf Club leases its present location on Hill Street and erects its clubhouse.

A committee reports on a proposed boulevard over the hills to Arlington Heights and recommends it be wide enough to accommodate electric cars.

New sewerage committee appointed.

State allocates \$5000. for construction of Bedford Street as a "State Road."

April 19. The Hayes Fountain [Lexington Minuteman] unveiled; cost \$10,853.

April 19. First use of street cars to connect with the Boston Elevated Company at Arlington Heights.

Transportation in this form began in 1859 when Arlington citizens who had incorporated the "West

- 1900 Cambridge Horse Railroad Company" built tracks from near their present Town Hall to "Porter's" in Cambridge there to connect with the horse cars of the Union Street Railway Company. Electric cars on the Arlington line were first used in July, 1889, and the tracks were extended to Arlington Heights in 1893. Horse cars made their final run in Boston, December 24, 1900.

Water supply so low Town buys water from the Metropolitan System.

State Inspector condemns the High School building for further use "in its present condition."

Mr. Frizzell issues his famous report on the April 19th celebration. And it's worth reading.

- 1901 Jan. 28. Committee appointed for construction of new High School and a new Primary School.

Question of legality of election of Selectmen has gone to the General Court.

Feb. 1. Legislature passes first laws relative to the operation of automobiles.

March. Lexington Fellowship of Charities formed, now Lexington Public Health Association.

May 10. "Grant elm" on Common cut down, dead.

May 20. Election of Selectmen repeated.

June. First electric car runs to Woburn.

June. Street Railway Company buys Boardman's Grove for "Lexington Park."

Sept. 12. Town appropriated \$10,000. to hunt for additional water supply.

Oct. 9. Town appropriates \$55,000. for construction of new High School. Tidd School still in use.

The "Boulevard" to Arlington Heights; "there appears to be utter indifference on part of abutters."

Lexington-Boston, 21 trains a day each way. Sundays, 7 trains each way.

Seven mails a day, in and out.

Post-office opens Sundays 12:00 to 1:00.

- 1902 Jan. First electric cars to Waltham.
- March 3. Attempt to return to the old form of Board of Selectmen defeated.
- April 7. Joseph Van Ness bequeaths the land at Pleasant and Watertown Streets to the town for park purposes. It is named "Bowman Park."
\$5000. more is voted to help find a water supply.
Drain in Massachusetts Avenue extended from Waltham Street to Common.
- July. Jefferson Union Company leases Grant Gear Works.
- Aug. Town votes to sell old school-house on School Street.
- Committee on water-supply recommends purchase of land north of Blossom Street.
- Aug. Town votes to appoint a committee to consider entering Metropolitan Water System.
- Nov. 1. New High School dedicated. The old High School [Town Hall] is cut into two sections, moved to Vine Street and remodeled into tenement houses.
- Massachusetts Avenue from Oak Street to Arlington Heights widened at expense of Street Railway Company.
- Lexington Park opens.
- "Wild Acre" built.
- Town votes to enter the Metropolitan Water System.
- Chapter 48, section 133, relative to establishment of building lines is accepted, and Selectmen authorized to proceed thereunder.
- Dec. 9. George O. Whiting's residence burns.
- Selectmen's Report: "did not establish a building line on Massachusetts Avenue as construction on Hunt Building had begun and heavy damages would result."
- 1903 Jan. 21. Town appropriates \$27,250. to pay the entrance fee to Metropolitan Water System.

1903 Method of electing selectmen takes up most of three evenings. Attempt to appeal to Legislature is defeated 218 to 215.

Building [Hunt] west corner Massachusetts Avenue and Waltham Street erected (the old house is moved back on Waltham Street and is used for a store.)

Feb. 13. Connection established with Metropolitan Water System.

March 30. A plan to purchase the H. V. Smith farm on Adams Street for cemetery is defeated.

Bedford Street completed as a "state road" from railroad tracks to town line.

A Mr. Hoffman is building a real air-plane in the old Mitchell Leather Shop.

Aug. 14. Boat-house of the Watapah Canoe Club on Sudbury River is dedicated.

Oct. 4. Christian Science Church organized and lease the kindergarten building on Forest Street. Present Savings Bank Building started—old building moved back.

Nov. 12. Hayden residence on Lincoln Street burned, loss \$26,000.

Dec. 3. Selectmen authorized to sell Tidd, Franklin and Howard school houses.

The Franklin School [Concord Avenue] and the Warren School [School Street] become the property of J. Willard Hayden and were moved to Lincoln Street. They are now the residence of Mrs. Scheibe. The Tidd School [North Hancock Street] became the property of George W. Taylor and is now the barn on "Larchmont Farm" on Larchmont Lane. The Howard School [Lowell Street] became the property of Mrs. Bridget Leary and is now the barn at No. 116 Vine Street.

"Oakmount Park", the F. B. Hayes estate, opened up for house-lots.

Lexington Grange organized.

LOCAL POLITICS

In earlier days, Town Meetings began at 9 A.M. and lasted usually until 5 P.M. Consideration of the articles in the warrant went on while balloting for the various town offices took place. This was changed many years ago so that while the balloting began at 9 A.M., consideration of the warrant was deferred until 1 P.M. when most of the balloting was over. This arrangement continued in Lexington until 1897 when consideration of the articles in the annual warrant was first adjourned to an evening meeting.

At various times the duties of the Selectmen were divided among three Boards, The Selectmen, Overseers of the Poor, and Surveyors of Highways (later called Road Commissioners). It was customary to elect three Selectmen for a term of one year, while the Overseers of the Poor and Surveyors of Highways were elected for a three-year term. Usually, but not always or necessarily, the same three men constituted all three Boards.

In 1900 (under Acts of 1898) the town first elected one Selectman for one year, one Selectman for two years and one Selectman for a three-year term, but continued to elect the members of the other two boards for a three-year term.

In 1902 an attempt was made to go back to the one-year term for Selectmen, but the attempt was defeated by a vote of 172-210.

A similar attempt to go back to the earlier method was defeated in 1903—218 to 215. (Not two-thirds). The election of the one Selectman for a three-year term was protested as illegal but apparently without avail except as it influenced events in 1904.

In 1904 no Selectman was elected on the regular ballot (1 for 3 years) but at a later meeting, on March 21, three Selectmen were elected for a 1 year term. This method of electing Selectmen prevailed until 1917, when, following a vote passed March 13, 1916, it was voted that in 1917 the

town would elect one Selectman for 1 year, one for 2 years and 1 for a 3 year term.

This last method prevailed until 1922 when the town adopted a new form of government whereby the Selectmen, Overseers of The Poor, Surveyors of Highways, etc., etc., were consolidated in a five man Board.

The foregoing points to the influence of local politics, and from 1900 to 1917 local politics were at a high pitch in which the personal ambitions of a half-dozen men served to keep the town in a continuous political ferment. While it was to some degree a continuation of the struggle between the farmers and the new comers it was in a great measure a continuing contest within this small group as to who should secure control of town affairs.

1904 March 1. Construction of "Munroe School" is recommended.

March 18. Town appropriates \$27,000. for that purpose.

March 25. Savings Bank moves into its new building.

April 4. Patrick Flynn begins publication of the "Lexington Independent."

May 16. Rural free delivery established.

June. Elizabeth R. Smith [Mrs. Elizabeth Nourse] graduates from high School with a record of neither absent or tardy for ten years.

July 30. Post Office moves to new Savings Bank Building.

Oct. The Munroe School opens.

"Second" change is made in term of office of Selectmen.

The Outlook Club is organized.

Work begun on the Grant Street underpass.

Francis H. Fobes first Rhodes scholar from Massachusetts.

1905 Horse-racing on the decline.

Jan. Miss Elizabeth W. Harrington proposes a home for the aged and gives a \$1,000. The Lexington Home for the Aged incorporated April 5, 1905.

George O. Smith leaves the residue of his estate as an educational fund and \$2500. to the Town and \$15,000. to the Lexington Historical Society.

Jan. 31. Miss Cary offers to present a site and a library building; town votes to accept the gift.

March 6. Town votes to set apart for public purposes all lands secured through purchase of the Lexington Water Co. (Parker Street Playground, the Reservoir on Lincoln Street, etc.).

- 1905 March 13. The new school-house is named "Munroe School".
- March 27. Town appropriates \$1700. as its share cost of Grant Street underpass.
- Oct. 23. Meriam Street, from Chandler Street to Adams Street, is accepted.
- Miss Ellen A. Stone gives land in rear of old Adams School for playground purposes.
- Town appropriates \$2500. to enlarge Cary Library lot by purchase of land on Massachusetts Avenue. Vote confirmed Feb. 2, 1906.
- The ancient store building, site Cary Library Bulletin Board is moved to No. 1832 Massachusetts Avenue.
- 1906 Jan. Hancock Church's Men's Club organized. Library building under construction.
- Feb. 2. Town purchases additional land on Massachusetts Avenue adjoining Cary Library lot.
- Feb. 24. Votes to ask General Court to pass a new Sewerage Act.
- March 12. Appropriate \$100. for a survey for a boulevard from Vine Brook Road to Pleasant Street.
- July 16. Cary Library moves in to its new building (cost \$55,000).
- A new and larger drain laid in Massachusetts Avenue, Clarke Street to Vine Brook; three abutters contribute \$1075.
- Lexington Golf Club buys its property on Hill Street. (See 1895-1900).
- 1907 Feb. 15. Town refuses, 88 to 59, to build a sewerage system.
- April 15. Defeats it again, 125-120.
- Home and School Association formed—"parent" of Parent-Teachers Association.

- 1907 During the summers of 1906-07-08 Edward W. Taylor, doing business as "The Lexington and Concord Sight-Seeing Co.", is operating two large sight-seeing buses from Boston to Lexington and Concord. As lecturers and drivers, etc., are Zadoc Sherman, Irving B. Pierce, Roy Curtis, Edward C. Maguire and Samuel Hamilton.
- 1908 March 2. Library Building is named Cary Memorial Library.
Supper room added to First Parish Church.
March 9. Town votes to rescind its vote of April 7, 1902, whereby the school committee was increased to six members, so that beginning in 1911 the membership would again be three.
Nineteen trains daily each way, except Sunday.
- 1909 Feb. 1. Town adopts resolutions protesting against the establishment of a hospital for the insane on the Lawrence Estate [Fair Oaks], followed by a great protest meeting by Lexington Citizens at the State House.
Mar. 22. Town appropriates \$2910. to buy additional land rear of Munroe School.
May 6. Sewer and Water Boards consolidated.
School-committee urge a new school building for East Lexington.
Sept. 25. Vote to sell the house and lot at the Pumping Station, Lincoln Street.
Oct. 15. East Lexington Post Office discontinued.
Oct. 16. Free postal delivery established.
June 30. Old Belfry destroyed by gale.
Street numbering begins.
Edison Electric Company purchases local Electric Light Company.
"Fair Oaks" developed into house lots.

1910 Population 4918. Valuation \$7,826,000. Tax rate \$18.50.

Feb. 22. First "Winter Carnival" at "Twin Elms."

March 14. Town appropriates \$30,000. to reimburse its trust funds.

April 12. Elect Trustees of Public Trusts.

Lexington Minute-men organized.

Episcopal Church builds an addition.

Replica of the Old Belfry erected.

Coal-yard buildings, opposite centre railroad station, torn down.

Mr. Leroy Brown remodels the Jonathan Harrington house, Bedford Street, corner Harrington Road.

1911 Jan. 17. Committee appointed to consider construction of a swimming-pool.

Feb. 11. Second "Winter Carnival" at "Twin Elms."

March 27. Committee appointed to prepare a Code of Building Laws.

April. "Battle of Lexington" done on the Common by "movie" actors, a failure; too many dogs and children.

April 29. Committee appointed to consider erection of a new Adams School.

May 12. Town accepts Act providing for a Board of Survey; two reports on the sewer question are issued. Appropriation for sewer construction is defeated by 9 votes.

June 10. Appropriate \$10,650. to purchase automobile, hose and chemical and to remodel Centre Engine House.

The sewer again defeated.

July 4. Hottest day in the history of the Boston Weather Bureau—official temperature is 104 degrees.

- 1911 Oct. 19. Appropriate \$4575. for purchase of land for a new school in East Lexington.

Munroe Tavern given to Lexington Historical Society by will of James S. Munroe. (See "*Proceedings*," Vol. II.)

- 1912 March 23. Cambridge Subway opens. Lexington electric cars run to Harvard Square; previously they had run to Sullivan Square.

April 24. Vote to erect a concrete standpipe to be placed on Concord Hill; cost \$19,660. 105 feet high. The old standpipe and also the one at East Lexington were removed.

Vote—hereafter to elect Moderator annually.

Appropriate \$55,000. to erect new Adams School.

June 29. First Code of Building Laws accepted.

Committee appointed to consider purchase of Belfry Hill.

Appropriate \$8000. for an auto pumper.

Oct. 19. Appropriate \$600. for survey of brooks.

Committee on swimming pool recommend construction of pool 100 feet by 40 feet.

Oct. 24. Concrete standpipe filled.

Alfred E. Robinson leases the Munroe Farm for nursery purposes.

Lexington Lumber Company builds on Bedford Street.

Nov. 9. Contents of Buckman Tavern auctioned off.

Block erected at south corner of Massachusetts Avenue and Muzzey Street. Reed house moved back.

Telephone Exchange building erected on Muzzey Street.

Engineers of Grand Trunk R.R. survey for a railroad from Montreal to Providence for freight traffic; to pass through Lexington, crossing Massachusetts Avenue at Parker Street.

- 1913 Troop I, Lexington Boy Scouts, organized.
- March 10. Park Commissioners elected.
- April 5. Town appropriates \$2250. to purchase Belfry Hill.
- May 15. Tenement House Act accepted.
- Accept some modifications of the Building Laws: later approved by Attorney General.
- Inspectors of Buildings and Plumbing appointed.
- Vote \$30,000. toward the purchase of the Buckman Tavern property, an additional \$10,000. to be raised by the Lexington Historical Society.
- June. Miss Ellen Dana dies and leaves her home-
stead, No. 627 Massachusetts Avenue, and her es-
tate to the Lexington Home for Aged People.
- June. Three-day celebration of the 200th anniver-
sary of the incorporation of the town.
- The new Knox Pumper arrives.
- July 1. Post Office moves to No. 1756 Massachu-
setts Avenue.
- Aug. 31. Corner-stone laid for Jewish Synagogue
on Sylvia Street.
- Sept. New Adams School opens.
- School Committtee recommends enlarging Munroe
School.
- The Old Belfry is moved from the back end of Belfry
Hill to its present site.
- Muzzey house moved [from site of Edison Station]
to Glen Road extension.
- J. W. Wilbur is developing large areas in lower East
Lexington
- Hudson's "*History of Lexington*" re-issued in two
volumes by Lexington Historical Society.
- 1914 Jan. 8. Lexington Trust Company incorporated.
- July 28. World War starts.

- 1914 Oct. American Red Cross starts work in Lexington. Town has appropriated \$2000. for lowering brooks.
- Dec. Follen Road laid out, (2 houses moved; 2 houses and barns torn down, etc.).
- Edison Station completed.
- Board of Health report they have built a drain under Highland Avenue. They never refer to it again. (See 1921.)
- Christmas Eve. First Christmas Tree on Common with community singing.
- Dec. 31. Clock placed in steeple of Follen Church.
- 1915 Jan. 6. Town votes to accept Follen Road.
- Feb. 10. Town accepts Sewer Act of 1913 and appropriates \$100,000. to construct a sewerage system.
- March. Local politics active, seven candidates for office of [3] Selectmen.
- March 8. George W. Taylor gives a new flag-pole for the Common.
- Mr. Leroy Brown remodels the Marrett Munroe house, No. 1906 Massachusetts Avenue.
- April 21-22. Worst brush-fire — from Lexington Park to Woburn and Burlington; some buildings destroyed.
- May 7. "Lusitania" sunk.
- May 24. Work begun on the sewer at the Arlington line.
- June 14. Town appropriates \$7000. to widen Massachusetts Avenue, "Valentine [O'Connell Stores] property to Woburn Street."
- \$60,000 is voted to enlarge Munroe School [cost \$39,000.] and for a site and school-house at North Lexington.
- June 21-22-23. First Pageant, at "Twin Elms."

- 1915 A very wet summer, all low lands flooded and much damage to crops.
Lay-out of Summer Street accepted.
Simonds Tavern, Concord Avenue and Spring Street, burned.
- 1916 March 13. Town votes that beginning in 1917 Selectmen are to be elected each for a 3 year term.
June 12. Vote to employ a town engineer. Committee appointed to consider Town Manager form of government.
June 29. Lexington Cooperative Bank incorporated.
Sept. 11. First house connection with the sewer.
Selectmen report that Massachusetts Avenue has been widened, Hunt Building to Woburn Street.
School Committee recommend a Junior High School.
The Dana property (see 1913) is sold and the Lexington Home for Aged People purchase their present location, No. 2027 Massachusetts Avenue.
Home opened October 11th.
- 1917 March 1. Owners of private property around the Common voluntarily restrict their property to "its existing use" for 99 years.
March 12. Appropriate \$6500. for a motor ladder truck.
March 26. Adopt Resolutions on the World War.
Ask Secretary of the Navy to name a new battle-ship "Lexington."
April 1. Town Engineer first employed.
April 6. State of War with Germany is declared.
April 9. Nine inches of snow.
April 16. Appropriate \$15,000. for purchase of the John D. Bacon estate and \$6000 for plans of a new high school.

1917 Committee recommend adoption of Junior High School system.

Appropriate \$8960. for purchase of land between Westview Street and Bedford line for a cemetery.

April 19. First shot in the World War, fired by an American, is from the American S. S. "Mongolia" at a German Submarine in the English Channel.

April 30. Daylight Saving begins.

July 12. \$3000. appropriated to move stone-crusher from Grape Vine Corner "over" Waltham Street (near Brookside Avenue).

Elect Cemetery Commissioners.

Sept. 17. "Send-off" at the Common for our first quota of men.

Oct. 15. Purchase additional land at center engine-house.

Appointment of a Town Accountant is approved.

"Community Gardens" are in "full bloom"—6 acres.

Fall and Winter—the influenza epidemic.

Simon W. Robinson Lodge purchases the old Normal School building.

F. L. Emery gives the Muzzey Street entrance to the Playground.

Keeley Institute torn down.

Hancock Church buys the Hudson property.

First troop of Lexington Girl Scouts organized.

1918 Jan. 1st. It's 22° below zero.

Jan. 11. Death of Miss Alice B. Cary.

Jan. 30. Vote to employ a Town Counsel.

An extremely cold winter, many water-mains and services are frozen. Department spends \$4700. for thawing them.

March 25. Elect first Planning Board.

June 14. Frost.

1918 June 24. Masonic Temple dedicated.

June 30. Christian Science Church dedicated (building previously used as a kindergarten).

Aug. 7. Tornado with heavy rain.

Nov. 11. Armistice signed.

Boston Humus Company is using the old Arlington Water-works Pumping Station [across tracks from East Lexington R.R. station] as a plant to convert peat into commercial humus.

Year of the coal shortage.

Initiative and Referendum Amendment to State Constitution is adopted. Lexington's vote was, in favor 222, opposed 499.

"Farmhurst" laid out in house-lots.

Lexington stands third in the State in the value of animals slaughtered, i.e., \$100,000. a year. In 1913 there were 6544 animals slaughtered, in 1920 there were 9027, and in 1929 there were 8662.

Theatre block, No. 1792-1804 Massachusetts Avenue, is built; Captain Phelps' house moved back.

1919 Feb. 2. Welcome to 75 returned service men in Town Hall.

March 10. Pass Resolutions in "appreciation of the patriotic service of our citizens in the World War."

March 17. Depot Park accepted.

May 26. Dinner at Belmont Country Club to 175 returned service men.

June 14. Welcome at the Common to 200 service men. General Edwards here.

June 30. Purchase land at North Lexington—appropriate \$70,000. to build a school house thereon.

Sept. 27. First Country Fair and Cattle Show. At the Tower Estate, Pelham Road. \$2000. raised for local Child Welfare work.

Equal Suffrage is granted.

- 1919 Vine Brook Committee say "not wise to deepen, recommend it be cleaned and the walls relaid."
New Drainage Act filed with the Legislature.
Concrete stand-pipe leaking badly.
Town takes the matter of the Suburban Land Co. [off Fern Street] to Supreme Court.
- 1920 Population, 6350. Valuation, \$9,945,000. Tax rate, \$33.00.
Jan. 20. Prohibition becomes effective.
March 22. \$14,000. voted to repair the stand-pipe.
Aug. 31. First town-meeting in which women participate. Town votes to purchase a considerable area on the S/E side of the Great Meadow for park purposes.
Sept. 24. This park project is defeated. It is defeated again May 3, 1921, and Sept. 19, 1922.
Sept. 25. Second Country Fair and Cattle Show held at The Tower Estate. \$2300. raised for local Child Welfare work.
Dec. 17. Committee is appointed to consider changes in form of town government.
The suit of the town against The Suburban Land Co. is the first case to be decided by the Supreme Court under the Board of Survey Act of 1917. Town loses the case but the Court says the Land Co. is subject to "penalties," viz., "no water, sewer, lights, or other public conveniences."
Selectmen make first reference to the Cary Fund.
Viano's Garage, No. 1668 Massachusetts Avenue, built.
Hudson house [next above Hancock Church] moved to Belfry Terrace.
- 1921 Feb. "Lexington Manor" divided into houselots.
March 28. A. E. Scott gives 40 acres of land as an addition to the Parker Street playground. Accepted by the Park Board, not by the Town.

- 1921 \$15,000. more voted to repair the stand-pipe.
Cemeteries are named; Robbins, Munroe, Colonial,
and Westview.
Dental clinic in schools is authorized.
- April 4. A proposal by the State Dept. of Public
Works that a highway be constructed from Sum-
mer Street across the Great Meadow to Maple
Street near foot of the hill is referred to a special
committee.
- July 9. Heaviest rain for many years.
- Sept. 24. Third Country Fair and Cattle Show.
Held on the Cary Estate [Fairbanks], Cary Ave-
nue. In these 3 fairs hundreds of citizens united
in a fine community spirit, and raised large sums
for local Child Welfare work.
- Nov. 28. The Ice Storm.
- Dec. 9. Committee on changes in form of town gov-
ernment report and town votes to seek legislation
to effect the changes.
- Town Engineer reports there are 35 land develop-
ments in Lexington; they embrace 1431 acres with
41½ miles of road.
- Plans are under way to enlarge the drain under
Highland Avenue and thus drain 45 acres direct
to Vine Brook.
- Childs' Garage at No. 409 Massachusetts Avenue
built (enlarged 1927).
- 1922 Feb. 6. Adopt the new form of town government
—it includes the consolidation of various boards
with the Selectmen; that board becomes a Board
of Public Works with 5 members; and the appoint-
ment of a Supt. of Public Works.
- Vote to sell the stone-crusher—it had not been used
after it was moved (1917).
- May 22. Vote \$10,000 to buy land at Depot Park.
Two voting precincts are established.

- 1922 June 19. Committee on a new code of bylaws, appointed in 1911, at last make their report. The new code is adopted at the seventh adjournment of the annual town meeting, June 28.
- Aug. 22. C. Eliot Hadley begins publishing "Lexington Times."
- Sept. 19. Voting by precincts is approved.
- Nov. 22. Voters approve the 18th [Prohibition] amendment by a vote of 980 to 802.
- The Meserve house is torn down and Ribock builds the block, No. 1780-1788 Massachusetts Avenue.
- "Lexington Outdoor Club" issues its prospectus. Proposes to use Cary Estate of 177 acres, provides 2 golf courses, etc., etc.
- 1923 The "unhappy year," there are 10 adjournments of the annual town meeting.
- April 15. The Lexington Minute-men issue their invitation to 77 non-residents to contribute \$1000. each "for the purpose of erecting a memorial to the minute-men of April 19, 1775, to be erected on the grounds of Buckman Tavern." (See 1931).
- Sept. 24. Layout of roads in Lexington Manor approved.
- Junior High School is in operation at Munroe School.
- Oct. 19. D. W. Griffith here to do parts of the movie "America."
- 1924 Feb. 18. Trustees of the Isaac Harris Cary Educational Fund announce "a sum approaching \$500,000—available—to build a building, provide an educational fund, and an annual course of lectures."
- Conference committee is appointed.
- March 10. Committee is appointed to secure plans for an addition to Parker School and for a new high school.

1924 March 17. Zoning law accepted.

\$250 is appropriated to repair the "Honor Roll."

This stood by the side of the old town hall [opposite Waltham Street] and was erected by funds provided by private citizens. It was never accepted by the town—action in that respect was defeated through the energy of one citizen.

June 22. Yale University Press here to take scenes for their movie, "Eve of the Revolution" in their series "Chronicles of America."

June 26. \$480,000. is appropriated for a High School and an addition to the Parker School.

"Fair Oaks" lay-out is approved.

"Cary Farm" lay-out is "before the Board."

Busses have replaced street cars.

The old Frank Holmes barn on Waltham Street is remodeled for use by the Post Office (No's. 18-20 Waltham Street).

The street floor of Norris Block [Central Block, No. 1833-1853 Massachusetts Avenue] is lowered three feet to bring stores down to street level.

Building, No. 1047-1049 Massachusetts Avenue, is erected.

"Crescent Manor" building erected, corner Bedford Street and North Hancock Street.

Hancock Church enlarged.

1925 March 16. Building Code is completely revised.

March 26. \$12,000. appropriated for new pumper.

\$7,500. appropriated to build Forest Street extension.

Proposal from Isaac Harris Cary Fund Trustees not acceptable.

April 19. Celebration of 150th Anniversary of the Battle of Lexington.

April 19-20. As the 150th Anniversary of the Battle of Lexington fell on Sunday there was only the patriotic service in the evening with the larger celebration on Monday. The observance was given

1925 national recognition by the coinage of commemorative half-dollars of which Lexington sold 39,000 and Concord 21,000 at a gross profit to the towns of fifty cents each. There was also a special issue of postage stamps; one cent Cambridge, two cent Lexington, and five cent Concord. The United States Marine Band was sent up from Washington and took part in the Sunday evening exercises and headed the parade on Monday. Among the Town's many honored guests were Vice-President Dawes and General John J. Pershing.

Sunday was pleasant but it snowed late Sunday night, and Monday, as in 1875, was wet and disagreeably cold. Overshoes and heavy overcoats were much in evidence. Concord had its parade in the morning and many of their guests and participants were to come to Lexington for the afternoon parade. This and the weather caused about four hours of shivering delay in starting the Lexington parade. Lexington appropriated \$15,000. for the expenses of the celebration. The expenditures were about \$23,400. The profit from the sale of half-dollars (divided evenly between the two towns) and from souvenirs, etc., resulted in a net cost to the town of only \$7,000. A report of the observance appears in the Town Report for 1925.

June 16, 17, 18, 22, 23. Lexington Pageant. As a fitting climax of the observance of the 150th Anniversary of the Battle of Lexington, the citizens, under the leadership of J. Willard Hayden, Jr., staged the pageant, "Lexington", on grounds especially prepared for that purpose on the Ryder estate, back of the Parker Street Playground. Forty-one local organizations and over 1400 citizens participated either as performers or on working committees. In addition, citizens of Bedford represented the Bedford Minute-men and Company F. M.N.G., enacted the role of the British Army. There were, too, a considerable number of professionals, technicians, etc., so that over 1700 persons worked together to insure the success of the undertaking. A slight idea of the extent of the produc-

- 1925 tion can be given in the simple statement that the flood-lighting, illumination, etc., exceeded 400,000,000 candle-power and that the attendance exceeded 40,000. The recorded expenses were \$53,000., which in no way indicates the probable costs, for the contributions of services and materials were very large. The net profit, \$4150., is held by Trustees toward the future construction of a gymnasium.
- June 26. Again the proposal from the Isaac Harris Cary Trustees is rejected.
- Sept. 28. Lay-out of Highland Avenue accepted. Taking made to widen Waltham Street, near Massachusetts Avenue, 7½ feet; Aldrich Block then built.
- Nov. 16. New High School open for inspection. Two requests for permits to establish burial grounds are refused.
- Proposal that a Veterans Hospital be placed on the Simonds Farm on Grove Street is most unwelcome. Veterans Memorial Committee condemns Lexington Minute-men's plan of a "display" memorial on the Common.
- Building No. 844-856 Massachusetts Avenue erected. Building east corner Waltham Street and Marrett Road erected.
- 1926 Jan. 1. Lexington added to Boston Postal District.
- March 11. Heavy rain, tracks flooded at Arlington Heights, and no trains after early morning.
- March 15. Names of 26 streets changed to avoid duplication.
- Committee appointed to consider a gift to the airplane carrier "Lexington."
- Minute-man Garage, 39 Bedford Street, built.
- May 12. Drainage Bill (ch. 263, Acts 1926) accepted. \$400 appropriated for engineering study.

1926 \$13,000. appropriated for Highland Avenue drainage.
Authorize first appointment of a Wire Inspector.

Dec. 6. Town accepts gift of the property at No.
1888 Massachusetts Avenue from F. H. Ringe.

Committee appointed to consider Representative
form of Town Government.

Dec. 6. Vote to establish a building line on the
northeast side of Massachusetts Avenue, from the
O'Connell property to Fletcher Avenue.

On November 24, 1930, the Edison Electric
Company gave the Town a deed of their front land.
On April 1, 1932, the Town paid \$3500. and re-
ceived a deed of similar front land of what is now
the Post Office property.

"Whereby the Town is protected against new
building construction that would add to the cost of
widening the Avenue to a full one hundred feet
should it ever be deemed necessary to have the
Avenue so widened."

1927 Jan. 31. Accept gift from the Isaac Harris Cary
Trustees of land and proposed Memorial Building.
Appoint a committee to consider the erection of a
new Town Office Building and sale of the old Town
Hall.

March 14. Vote to sell the property at No. 1888
Massachusetts Avenue for \$11,000. \$9,000. appro-
priated to widen Massachusetts Avenue and Han-
cock Street at Buckman Tavern; much opposition
due to destruction of trees.

July 11. Death of Admiral George H. Wadleigh,
last survivor of the officers of the U. S. "Consti-
tution" when in active service. (His home was
on Stratham Road.)

Sept. 22. Appropriate \$106,500. for a new Town
Office Building and to sell the old Town Hall.

Dec. 8. Approve sale of old Town Hall [opposite
Waltham Street] for \$50,001.

- 1927 Fifty-three acres of land laid out on hill in East Lexington, south and east of Locust Avenue, later extended to include a considerable area north and west of Locust Avenue.
- Lexington Outlook Club starts its Educational Fund for girls.
- Building No. 1709-1727 Massachusetts Avenue erected on Keeley Institute lot.
- Fire-proof addition to Hancock-Clarke House.
- 1928 Jan. 28. Presentation of silver service to the airplane carrier "Lexington" at South Boston Dry dock. Service cost \$2011.
- March 26. Name of "Middle Street," etc., changed to "Marrett Road."
- Committee appointed to consider a swimming pool, (the existing pool on the Parker Street playground is a muddy wading pool).
- Committee appointed to look into the proposed Minute-men's memorial monument. (See 1923, 1925, and 1931.)
- June 10. Hancock Church entertains 800 British Congregational Pilgrims.
- June 30. Town office building completed and occupied.
- Oct. 18. Cary Memorial Building is dedicated. (Shaw and Plumer houses torn down.)
- Nov. 26. Miss Ellen M. Tower presents "Tower Park" and a trust fund of \$10,000. for its care.
- Selectmen instructed to petition Legislature for an act permitting representative form of town government—vote is 120 to 106.
- Lexington votes for repeal of 18th Amendment [Prohibition] 1687 to 595.
- Metcalf and Eddy report on reinforcements and improvements to the water distribution system.
- Old Town Hall demolished.

- 1928 Fall. Robert H. Holt presents the painting, "News from Lexington", by Emmanuel Leutze, to the Lexington Historical Society. It hangs in the Cary Memorial Building.

Building No. 1733-1753 Massachusetts Avenue erected on old Town Hall lot.

The Benjamin Wellington farm becomes the Minute-man Golf Club.

The Dick Dunn farm becomes the Paul Revere, later Pine Meadows Golf Club.

- 1929 Jan. 7. Special Committee submits long report on the Fire Dept.

Feb. 11. First meeting of the Lexington Rotary Club.

Mar. 18. Committee recommends addition to new Adams School and construction of a new school in south part of town.

March 25-28. Lexington Rotary Club entertains boys from Australia.

Apr. 8. Vote to purchase land to depth of 25 feet through the Central Block. (See Dec. 16.)

Appropriate \$12,500. for new pumper.

April 15. Appropriate \$13,500. for a swimming pool at Centre Playground.

April 22. Fire at Junior High School.

June 18. New Zoning Law.

Vote to place Memorial Tablet in the Cary Memorial Building to those slain in World War I.

Sept. 7. Swimming Pool dedicated.

Nov. 4. Act to establish Representative Form of Town Government accepted, 497 to 234.

Dec. 16. \$35,000. appropriated to purchase land and building from the Middlesex and Boston Street Railway Company for Public Works Department.

- 1929 Vote to ask Legislature for permission to revoke acceptance of the Tenement House Act. This was overlooked and no action was taken.
Lexington Trust Company buys its present location and demolishes the old hotel.
Arcade Building erected—No. 1840 Massachusetts Avenue.
Massachusetts Avenue renumbered.
Garage built — rear No. 1709-1715 Massachusetts Avenue.
Christmas Eve. First Mass celebrated at the Sacred Heart Church.
- 1930 Population 9467. Valuation \$20,768,000. Tax rate, \$32.00.
March 3. First election of Town Meeting Members.
Mar. 31. Metcalf & Eddy report on Vine Brook Drainage.
May 19. Proposal to appropriate \$90,000. to lower Vine Brook is defeated, 67 to 87. (Not two-thirds).
June 9. \$132,000. appropriated to purchase 8 acres of land and to build Franklin School.
Clarke Street entrance to Parker Street Playground laid out and \$3500. appropriated.
New Drainage Committee appointed.
Purchase additional back land Cary Library lot.
Oct. 15. Proposal to establish a street line through the O'Connell property, No. 1757-1775 Massachusetts Avenue, and to appropriate \$55,000. therefor—defeated 49-50.
Vote to demolish the Alms-house buildings on Hill Street.
Vote to demolish the old Pumping Station on Lincoln Street.
Nov. 7. Appoint a committee to consider addition to new Adams School.
Vote to instruct Selectmen to establish a building line through the O'Connell property. (See Oct. 15.)

- 1930 Dec. 2. The establishment of this building line is voted and \$500. appropriated as tentative damages. (See 1931).

Rescind the vote establishing a street line through the Central Block.

Town participates in Tercentenary Celebration of the Founding of the Bay Colony.

O'Connell Block, No. 1757-1775 Massachusetts Avenue, remodeled.

Metcalf & Eddy report on the Sewerage System. This was authorized in June, 1928; cost \$2700. and has never been printed.

- 1931 March 16. \$2500. appropriated to purchase 4 acres to add to Parker School lot.

\$85,000. is appropriated for addition to new Adams School. (Vote repeated April 27).

March 23. \$15,710. appropriated for repairs to "new" Public Works Building.

April 7. Accept gift of a captured German field piece. It is placed first on Hastings Park and later in Tower Park.

April 27. Vine Brook drainage plans again defeated.

May 4. \$22,715. is voted for damages to O'Connell on account of the building line.

Oct. 17. Field Day at East Lexington Playground. Many citizens join in grading the land.

July 1. Old Age Assistance begins.

Lexington Minute-men Memorial. From the Town Committee Report: The cost of the memorial was to be \$150,000.00—\$61,000.00 was raised. Promotion costs and advance payments up to 1931 had reduced this to \$15,000.00. Subsequent expenditures have reduced the fund to approximately \$5,000.00. The utilization of this remaining sum for a memorial tablet will probably come before the town for action in 1946.

- 1932 March 4. Appropriate \$38,350 as town's share of cost of erection of Middlesex County Tuberculosis Hospital at the Waltham line.
- March 21. Pass resolves against Federal Control of the Battle Green.
- Accept Taylor bequests — \$2000. tree fund, \$2000. flag-pole fund.
- Oct. 31. Town employees earning \$20 a week or more are to contribute 10% of pay to a relief and works fund.
- 1933 March 6. All banks in U. S. are closed for about one week.
- March 20. Town assents to dissolution of Lexington Ministerial Fund.
- Aug. 14. The concrete stand-pipe an admitted failure; \$40,000. appropriated to build a steel stand-pipe beside old one.
- Oct. 16. Appropriate \$6000. for survey of all drainage areas.
- Weekly band concerts by Lexington Community Band on Buckman Tavern lawn.
- Arlington Pumping Station torn down.
- Concord Highway under construction.
- 1934 It has been a very cold winter—173 water services frozen.
- Legislature passes act adding all of Lexington to Metropolitan Sewer District.
- March 19. Appropriate \$11,000. for a shop building at the High School; completed during the summer.
- Appropriate \$24,000. to lower Brown's Brook, East Lexington.
- April 19. Citizens in Town assembly issue Memorial to Congress endorsing "business freedom and rights of private enterprise."
- June 25. Town adopts a new seal.

1934 New Code of By-laws adopted.

Oct. 19. New steel stand-pipe filled.

Oct. 29. Clematis Brook, in south part of town, to be lowered, with Federal funds, and low-level trunk sewer constructed in Mill Brook valley, Arl. Hts. line to East Lex. R.R. station.

Mrs. Amanda Caroline Payson leaves a fund for the education of girls.

1935 Feb. 20. Lexington bans the play "Valley Forge", a W.P.A. project.

July 22. Refuse to consider purchase of Mulliken land, rear Waltham Street, as an addition to Playground and site for a new High School.

Oct. 21. Request for \$170,000. to lower Vine Brook is defeated 79-42 (not two-thirds).

Refuse to appropriate \$300,000. for a new High School.

Nov. 18. Referendum on Vine Brook lost, 1114 to 1398.

Referendum on a new High School lost, 1037 to 1672, and for purchase of land lost, 873 to 1617.

Building 1729 Massachusetts Avenue erected.

1936 March 23. Appropriate \$1500. for legal expenses incident to the Ryder suits and \$1000. more is appropriated March 22, 1937.

Sept. 21. New committee on Vine Brook is appointed.

First reference to a proposed Airport at Bedford.

Dec. 7. Town accepts gift under will of F. L. Emery of \$5000., the income to be used in care of public places.

U. S. Government proposes to build a Post Office Building.

(Leland T. Powers' house torn down.)

Oscar L. Patch has left a fund to Simmons College, preference to be given to assisting Lexington girls.

- 1936 Grain mill and lumber building [rear No. 1757-1775 Massachusetts Avenue] torn down.
The David Wellington house on Pleasant Street becomes the "1775 House."
- 1937 March 15. Town passes Resolutions against enactment of any legislation by Congress which would give the President power to enlarge the Supreme Court.
- March 22. Appropriate \$25,000. for purchase of the Barnes property, No. 1557 Massachusetts Avenue.
\$1500. appropriated for purchase of additional land at Parker School.
- July 1. Contributory Retirement Pension System becomes effective.
- Sept. 27. Vine Brook Committee reports and \$3000 is appropriated for plans and specifications.
\$4000 more appropriated for the Barnes property.
Goodwin Estate divided into house lots and house and stable demolished.
- 1938 April 25. Lowering Vine Brook again defeated.
- July 7. Japan invades China.
Rainfall in the month is $11\frac{1}{2}$ inches.
- Aug. 8. Town votes to lower Vine Brook and to construct at same time, a low-level sewer. To be done in part by a Federal grant of \$162,000 (vote 112 to 29).
- Vote to name "Depot Park", "Emery Park".
- Aug. 25. Vote to construct North Lexington Sewer and Force Pumping Station in part by a Federal grant of \$69,300.
- Sept. 21. The Great Hurricane, affecting all New England.
- Oct. 31. Work started on Vine Brook.
- Nov. 10. \$23,000. appropriated to repair Hurricane damage.

- 1938 Accept gift from J. W. Hayden, Jr., of the "Aldrich Property" 25 acres on Lincoln Street adjoining the Parker Street playground.

Nov. 25-27. Two unusually heavy snow storms.

Nov. 28. Post Office Building dedicated.

Hardy's Pond Brook, under Concord Avenue, is lowered.

Veteran's Hospital at Bedford finds Bedford water supply inadequate and finds a bountiful supply in Lexington, near Summer Street, south of railroad tracks.

"Countryside" Building, corner Woburn and Lowell Streets, erected.

- 1939 Jan. 22. Citizens assemble at Public Works Bldg. and cut 200 cords of hurricane wood and deliver it to the needy, in heavy rain and snow.

State Senator Joseph R. Cotton elected President of the Massachusetts Senate.

March 20. An additional appropriation made for the North Lexington force-main sewer, the total is now \$163,600.

July 27. \$41,000. appropriated to settle the Ryder drainage damage suits.

Appropriation Committee recommends that the Town not accept a gift from Mrs. Frank R. Shepard of 40 American Flags to be used in decorating the Battle-green, on account of maintenance expense. The town votes unanimously to accept the gift.

Sept. 1. Germany invades Poland.

Sept. 3. War declared between Great Britain and Germany.

Nov. Work on Vine Brook completed.

Supreme Court sustains the Town in loam-stripping suit.

The Patrick Mitchell leather shop in East Lexington is demolished.

- 1939 Restoration of Munroe Tavern.
Childs' garage, Concord Pike and Watertown Street, built.
- 1940 Population 13,113. Valuation \$21,829,000. Tax Rate \$32.20.
- Mar. 25. Conference committee on proposed Bedford Airport is appointed.
- April 18. Appropriate \$1500. for purchase of "Cary" lot on Clarke Street, adjoining the library. Vote to demolish old Adams School (done in the summer).
- Town allocates funds for purchase of an ambulance [cost \$2243.], delivered in August.
- June 24. Lexington Civilian Defense Committee organized—believed to be first in United States.
- July 29. Referendum on establishing an apartment house zone on Vine Brook Road—defeated 1153 to 1252.
- Sept. 16. Draft Bill becomes a law.
- Sept. 27. Japan joins Germany as an ally in World War II.
- Oct. 16. First registration under Selective Service.
- Oct. 23. Great meeting on the Common to protest Presidential third term. Hon. Bainbridge Colby, speaker.
- 1941 March 31. Appropriate \$2435. for two-way radio for Police.
- April 7. Accept gift under will of Leroy S. Brown, \$5,000., the income to be used toward expenses of April 19th celebrations.
- Boston & Maine Railroad turns driveway at Center Station over to the Town.
- May 27. President proclaims an "unlimited national emergency."

- 1941 June 22. Germany invades Russia.
Last of "Washington Elm" at Munroe Tavern blown down.
Sept. 22. Buy additional land at Park Drive and Waltham Street.
Accept gift of flags from Mrs. Nellie Littlehale Murphy.
Building line through Central Block rejected.
Dec. 7. Pearl Harbor.
Airplane Warning Post established on grounds of Lexington Golf Club and is manned 24 hours a day for the duration of the war. The first Warning Post established in the United States and the first one manned 24 hours a day.
Dec. 8. State of War with Japan declared.
Dec. 11. State of War with Germany and Italy declared.
Dec. 20. Appropriate \$15,000. for Civilian Defense in the national emergency.
Liberty Heights sewer, a Federal project, under way.
- 1942 Feb. 1. Air-Craft Spotting Tower on Robinson Hill completed.
March 23. Establish a separate Board of Public Welfare.
Adopt a new Code of Building Laws.
Revoke acceptance of the Tenement House Act.
Adopt new Code of Plumbing By-laws.
Refuse to adopt new Gas-fitting By-law.
Vote to erect a temporary Honor Roll. Dedicated May 30th.
Vote to turn in the captured German Field Piece [World War I] for junk metal.
Selectmen's room converted into a Report Centre for the Committee on Public Safety. It is manned twenty-four hours a day until October, 1944.
Selectmen grant a license for Sunday "movies."

- 1942 April 19. Five thousand citizens assemble at the Battle-green and repeat the pledge of December 13, 1794.

"WE trust in God that should the state of our affairs require it we shall be ready to sacrifice our estates and everything dear in life, yea and life itself in support of the common cause."

The pledge is sent to the President of the United States.

May. Stone posts and chains placed around Emery Park.

May 15. Gasoline rationing begins.

August. Committee for Service Men start their work as hostesses at the Old Belfry Club, and in October transfer their work to the Service Men's Centre at 1802 Massachusetts Avenue.

Oct. 11. Week of the "Great junk collection"—227 tons.

Fall. B. & M. R.R. extends its tracks to Bedford Airport.

- 1943 Jan. 30. Fire at Centre Fire Headquarters.

March 15. Adopt new By-law relative to Apartment Houses.

March 24. \$3000. is raised and presented to the new Aircraft Carrier "Lexington" to be expended for the welfare of the crew.

- 1944 March 13. Appropriate \$14,100. for a new ladder truck.

Appropriate \$3,500. for a new flag pole for the Common. Dedicated September 30th.

Appropriate \$4,000. for a fence around the field at the Centre Playground.

June 12. Committee appointed to study sites for future schoolhouses.

Appropriate \$3600. to purchase site on Bedford Street for new fire headquarters.

- 1944 Appropriate \$4500. for plans for this new fire station and for plans of a new station at East Lexington on existing site.
 Accept bequest of Ellen A. Stone of \$2000. as an educational fund for girls.
 Appropriate \$2800. for plans to enlarge Cary Memorial Library.
 Sept. 14. Hurricane.
 Oct. 9. Selectmen disband the Committee on Public Safety.
- 1945 March 6. Vote "no" on a proposal to establish a kindergarten. Reconsider and vote to appoint a Committee to investigate.
 Accept a bequest from F. F. Raymond of \$500. for Cary Memorial Library.
 Appropriate \$110,000. to build new fire headquarters and \$55,000. for new fire station at East Lexington.
 Proposal that the School Committee be increased from three to five is defeated.
 Voluntary restrictions on land between Woburn Street and Fletcher Avenue and the railroad are removed.
 Appropriate \$3000. for mosquito control.
 Create a separate Board of Health.
 May 6. Germany surrenders, to take effect May 8.
 Metropolitan District Commission construct a stand-pipe on Turkey Hill, Arlington, largely for Lexington's benefit.
 Simon W. Robinson Lodge receives a gift of the property at 3/5 Bedford Street.
 Aug. 14. Japan surrenders. Formal ceremony September 2.
 Five trains a day, each way, except Sundays.
- 1946 Feb. 7. Regular transatlantic commercial airplane service begins at the Bedford Airport.

THE MINISTERIAL FUND

References to the bitter quarrels over the income from this Fund appear in the text and, perhaps, some explanation is in order.

The basis of all the contentions was as to the ownership of the Fund and the explanation is found in a consideration of the dual existence of Parish and Town.

In 1693 the members of the Parish of Cambridge Farms voted to purchase lands from Cambridge "for our ministry". That is, any income from the land (Stratham Road to near Bloomfield Street) was to be used to help pay the minister's salary.

Some of the land having been sold and the proceeds invested, the Town in 1817, secured an act of the Legislature incorporating the "Trustees of the Lexington Ministerial Fund" "To hold and invest the Fund and from the income to pay the Congregational Minister his salary" and if there was a surplus it was to be paid over to the Town Treasurer "for the purpose of schooling the children".

In 1830 a Baptist Society was formed in Lexington and within a year or two a Universalist Society and a second Congregational Society were formed in the East Village.

All three of these new societies erected churches. However, most of the persons attending worship in these new churches retained their legal membership in the First Parish thus being able to vote in the meetings of the ancient society.

In 1833 the residents of the East Village caused to be inserted in the Town Warrant an article to see if the Town would move the church on the Common to a more central location or build a church in the Village. The Town voted "No". The Warrant for the Oct. 1834 town meeting contained an article, "To see if the Town will petition the Legislature to repeal the act incorporating the Trustees of The Ministerial Fund or to so modify the same that equal rights to and from profits resulting therefrom may be secured to

all the inhabitants of said Town, agreeably to the intention of the ancient founders". This was voted down 120 to 64.

This controversy lasted 12 years. Toward the end of that period it became apparent that only further harm could come to the Town by its continuance. In 1843 the Town extended aid to the other three churches by an appropriation of \$80. to pay for fuel and for ringing the bell in the East Village, etc.

In 1845 the members of the First Parish united with the other societies in securing the passage of an act by the Legislature which provided that the income from the fund should be divided between the then religious societies in the Town on a basis of the taxable property held by the respective members of each society. This act was unanimously accepted in Town meeting March 31, 1845.

Following the burning of the First Parish Church on the Common Dec. 17, 1846 this matter of "dual existence" again arose. The question of extensive alterations to this meeting house had occasioned in 1845 the appointment of a Committee to seek legal advice as to "who owned the meeting-house". One year later the structure burned and the First Parish Society wisely decided to rebuild on "Harrington Road". However, in 1847 the town appropriated \$1300. for "acquiring parish rights in the Common and fencing and ornamenting".

The controversy arose again in 1871 when the Hancock Congregational Society (organized in 1868) appealed, not to the First Parish Society, but direct to the Legislature, to secure passage of an act which would permit them to share in the proceeds of the Fund. Again the Town was torn by a controversy that took years to heal.

The Legislature, aware of the legal aspects of the case provided that acceptance of the Act could come, not from the Town, but only from the members of the Societies who were owners of the Fund as determined in 1845. These societies refused to agree to a further division and the proceedings came to an end.

The basic question of law was, did this Ministerial Fund belong to the Town or to the Parish (Parishes). The Parish of Cambridge Farms came into being some 20 years before the Town was incorporated and one of the first acts

of the Parish was to buy lands—the sale of which created the Fund.

The question of ownership of such funds has been before our Courts many times. The strange dual—yet separate—existence of Parish and Town was early recognized by the Courts. The following extracts from decisions may be of interest:

“The double corporation of Town and Parish is believed to be peculiar to Massachusetts”.

“Parishes and Towns are distinct corporations. They must subsist together and act apart.”

“The Town is not, of course, and by any necessary construction, a successor of the Parish.”

“This property never belonged to the Town except in its parochial capacity, and the only ones who have lost their right of enjoyment of this property have done so by their voluntary severance from the parish.”

“We consider all the acts of towns in relation to meeting-houses, as done in their parochial capacity, and therefore giving them no right in their municipal character. The parish never lost possession of the meeting-house, never forfeited the property and the town as such never acquired any.”

“It was formerly the usage of the towns to transact their parochial business at the regularly called town meetings, making no difference in this respect whether acting on parochial subjects or on matters of strictly municipal concern.”

“Where lands are holden by the Town in its parochial capacity, the proceeds of the sale of such lands are also holden in like capacity.”

Thus the ancient parishes and the towns were held as distinct corporations, though they might consist of the same persons.

That the custom of conducting parish business in a general town meeting had existed from the founding of the Bay Colony.

That the voters in town meeting, when acting on parochial matters, simply changed themselves for the time being into parish members.

In 1933 the Trustees decided to divide the principal of the fund and dissolve the Trust. Such action would avoid all further controversy. Securing the assent of the three churches they then secured the passage of Ch. 12, Acts 1933, by the Legislature. This provided that $\frac{1}{2}$ the fund go to the First Parish Church; $\frac{1}{4}$ to the Follen Church; and $\frac{1}{4}$ to the First Baptist Church. That every legal angle might be covered, this Act was accepted in Town Meeting, March 20, 1933.

MILITARY SERVICE

The names of the Lexington men who served in the wars up to World War I are to be found in Hudson's "History of Lexington," second edition, and in Frank W. Curn's "Battle of April 19, 1775." The names of those who served in World War I were printed in the Town Report for the year 1918. The Town Report for 1919 carries a record of the service of the eight men who made the supreme sacrifice.

LEXINGTON'S PARTICIPATION
IN THE PURCHASE OF
WAR BONDS, WORLD WAR II

FIRST LOAN
Winter 1942
No Quotas.

*Treasury did not allocate
purchases.*

SECOND LOAN
Spring 1943
No Quotas.

Purchases
"E" Bonds \$68,000.
Grand Total \$277,000.

THIRD LOAN
Fall 1943
Quota \$526,000.

Purchases
"E" Bonds \$151,000.
Grand Total \$373,000.

FOURTH LOAN
Winter 1943/44
Quota \$500,000.

Purchases
"E" Bonds \$197,000.
Grand Total \$558,000.

FIFTH LOAN
Summer 1944
Quota \$520,000.

Purchases
"E" Bonds \$160,000.
Grand Total \$536,000.

SIXTH LOAN
Winter 1944/45
Quota \$457,000.

Purchases
"E" Bonds \$154,000.
Grand Total \$876,000.

SEVENTH LOAN
Summer 1945
Quota \$577,000.

Purchases
"E" Bonds \$183,000.
Grand Total \$1,611,000.

EIGHTH LOAN
Winter 1945/46
Quota \$533,000.

Purchases
"E" Bonds \$118,000.
Grand Total \$882,000.

SOURCES

The principal sources from which this chronological table of events in Lexington has been prepared are:

"The Register Booke of the Lands and Houses in the Newtowne, 1635" commonly called, "The Proprietor's Records", published by the City of Cambridge in 1896.

"Town and Selectmen's Records of Newtowne and Cambridge, 1630-1703", published by the City of Cambridge in 1901.

Lexington Town Records and records of various boards and committees.

"History of Lexington," by Charles Hudson, published by the Town in 1868. (one volume.)

"History of Lexington," second edition (two volumes) published by the Lexington Historical Society in 1913.

"Proceedings" of the Lexington Historical Society, four volumes, published at various times.

Files of the "Lexington Minute-man."

Writings of M. J. Canavan.

Town Reports.

Miscellaneous papers and documents in the files of the Lexington Historical Society.

The "Old Farmers' Almanac."

The two volumes of Cambridge Records are out of print. The first Edition of Hudson's History of Lexington is out of print and is considered as superseded by the second edition. However, certain material was not carried forward, especially much of pages 424 to 444 which consists of a description of localities and residences in Lexington. This second edition is now out of print as are some of the "Proceedings."

The extensive writings of Mr. M. J. Canavan are still in manuscript, although a type-written copy has been made and is in the possession of the Historical Society. They contain a wealth of material on early Lexington, much of

it based on extensive research at the Middlesex Registry of Deeds, as well as papers on Colonial and Revolutionary events in Lexington.

The only complete file of the "Lexington Minute-man" is in Cary Memorial Library. There is no complete file of Town Reports in existence. The best collection is that at the Library, which lacks only two or three of the earliest years. There is no collection in existence of special reports and broadsides having to do with public affairs and printed and circulated by various town committees and private citizens.

The ancient town records have been preserved in the most approved way — each leaf between silk sheets. Manuscript copies have been made and a file deposited with the Lexington Historical Society.

I N D E X
of the
PRINCIPAL SUBJECTS AND DATES WHICH APPEAR
IN THE CHRONOLOGICAL TABLE

BUILDINGS

Public

1692.

1708, 1712, 1713, 1715, 1764, 1767, 1774, 1783, 1784,
1793, 1794, 1799.

1831, 1833, 1835, 1844, 1845, 1846, 1847, 1855, 1857,
1866, 1869, 1870, 1871, 1872, 1873, 1874, 1878, 1891, 1892,
1893, 1898.

1902, 1905, 1906, 1923, 1924, 1925, 1927, 1928, 1929,
1930, 1931, 1936, 1937, 1938, 1944.

Semi-Public

1692.

1703, 1708, 1712, 1713, 1715, 1764, 1767, 1774, 1783,
1784, 1789, 1793, 1794, 1797, 1799.

1803, 1813, 1822, 1828, 1833, 1835, 1838, 1839, 1840,
1844, 1852, 1856, 1861, 1864, 1867, 1868, 1874, 1877, 1878,
1881, 1887, 1891, 1892, 1896.

1905, 1909, 1910, 1911, 1912, 1913, 1916, 1917, 1918,
1924, 1925, 1930, 1931, 1932, 1933, 1936, 1938, 1942.

(See also "Meeting-house, Churches, Fire Department,
Schools", etc.)

CEMETERIES

1692.

1747.

1831, 1835, 1845, 1860, 1882, 1893.

1903, 1917, 1921, 1925.

CLUBS AND ORGANIZATIONS

1784.

1800, 1806, 1822, 1849, 1850, 1854, 1857, 1860, 1862,
1866, 1868, 1870, 1872, 1874, 1876, 1878, 1881, 1884, 1886,
1887, 1889, 1891, 1892, 1893, 1894, 1895, 1896, 1897.

1900, 1901, 1903, 1904, 1905, 1906, 1907, 1910, 1913,
1914, 1916, 1917, 1918, 1922, 1923, 1924, 1925, 1927, 1928,
1929, 1931, 1933, 1940.

(See also "Military").

COMMON

1692, 1693.

1708, 1711, 1713, 1714, 1715, 1722, 1733, 1777, 1784,
1791, 1793, 1794, 1796, 1797, 1799.

1820, 1821, 1822, 1829, 1834, 1835, 1840, 1845, 1846,
1847, 1850, 1852, 1855, 1860, 1872, 1875, 1881, 1883, 1884,
1886, 1898.

1900, 1901, 1911, 1914, 1915, 1917, 1919, 1925, 1928,
1931, 1932, 1939, 1940, 1942.

DRAINAGE, BROOKS AND SEWERS

1636, 1642, 1648.

1714, 1735, 1754, 1797, 1798.

1821, 1829, 1841, 1849, 1851, 1854, 1860, 1872, 1873,
1874, 1876, 1877, 1878, 1885, 1886, 1888, 1889, 1890, 1891,
1893, 1894, 1896, 1897, 1898, 1899.

1900, 1902, 1906, 1907, 1909, 1911, 1912, 1914, 1915,
1916, 1919, 1921, 1926, 1930, 1931, 1933, 1934, 1935, 1936,
1937, 1938, 1939, 1941.

ECCLESIASTICAL

Meeting-house on the Common

1692.

1700, 1708, 1711, 1712, 1713, 1715, 1733, 1793, 1794.

1801, 1802, 1818, 1820, 1821, 1823, 1824, 1826, 1829,
1830, 1833, 1835, 1838, 1840, 1845, 1846.

ECCLESIASTICAL (*Continued*)

Ministers

1692, 1693, 1694, 1697, 1698.

1728, 1734, 1740, 1752, 1755, 1772, 1773, 1775, 1779,
1780, 1782.

1805, 1806, 1810, 1828, 1835, 1838, 1840, 1860, 1868,
1881, 1886, 1896.

Ministerial Lands and Fund

1693.

1770, 1775, 1781, 1784.

1817, 1831, 1836, 1838, 1843, 1845, 1866.

1905, 1933.

Societies in East Lexington

1833, 1835, 1838, 1839, 1840, 1843, 1845, 1858, 1865,
1872, 1886.

1913, 1914, 1929.

Other Societies

1806, 1824, 1829, 1830, 1833, 1838, 1843, 1846, 1847,
1848, 1852, 1865, 1868, 1871, 1872, 1873, 1875, 1880, 1881,
1883, 1885, 1886, 1887, 1891, 1892, 1893, 1896, 1899.

1903, 1908, 1910, 1914, 1917, 1918, 1920, 1924, 1928,
1929.

Miscellaneous

1631, 1648, 1659, 1669, 1682, 1684, 1691, 1692.

1700, 1764.

1801, 1818, 1821, 1826, 1829, 1830, 1833, 1835, 1840,
1843, 1846, 1847, 1858, 1866, 1872, 1891, 1892.

1905, 1914, 1920, 1928, 1929.

EDUCATION

Committees

1821, 1830, 1855, 1874, 1879, 1887.

1908, 1916, 1944, 1945.

EDUCATION (*Continued*)

School-houses and Lands

1714, 1761, 1781, 1792, 1794, 1795, 1796.

1800, 1804, 1805, 1806, 1816, 1820, 1821, 1826, 1827, 1829, 1834, 1837, 1838, 1847, 1850, 1851, 1852, 1853, 1854, 1855, 1858, 1875, 1883, 1885, 1887, 1888, 1889, 1890, 1891, 1896, 1899.

1900, 1901, 1902, 1903, 1904, 1905, 1909, 1911, 1912, 1913, 1915, 1916, 1917, 1919, 1923, 1924, 1925, 1929, 1930, 1931, 1934, 1935, 1937, 1940, 1944.

Private

1794, 1795, 1796.

1805, 1822, 1835, 1839, 1844, 1852, 1864, 1867, 1870, 1884, 1895, 1896, 1899.

1903, 1917, 1918.

Miscellaneous

1636, 1647, 1668.

1706, 1716, 1717, 1775, 1791, 1798.

1800, 1819, 1828, 1829, 1836, 1837, 1838, 1839, 1842, 1844, 1847, 1849, 1852, 1854, 1855, 1857, 1858, 1862, 1864, 1865, 1867, 1870, 1873, 1886, 1887, 1888, 1891, 1893, 1895, 1896, 1897, 1899.

1901, 1903, 1904, 1905, 1907, 1909, 1911, 1916, 1917, 1918, 1919, 1921, 1923, 1924, 1927, 1929, 1934, 1936, 1944, 1945.

FIRES

1676.

1760.

1839, 1840, 1841, 1846, 1867, 1872, 1875, 1883, 1890, 1891, 1895, 1896.

1902, 1903, 1915, 1929, 1943.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Houses, Lands and Equipment

1825, 1829, 1836, 1838, 1839, 1852, 1856, 1858, 1865, 1872, 1874, 1875, 1876, 1877, 1878, 1880, 1883, 1885, 1886, 1892, 1894, 1895, 1896, 1898, 1899.

1911, 1912, 1913, 1917, 1925, 1929, 1944, 1945.

GIFTS AND BEQUESTS

Public

1648, 1669, 1692, 1693, 1694.

1700, 1764, 1770, 1780, 1782, 1793, 1799.

1837, 1868, 1869, 1870, 1873, 1874, 1875, 1879, 1881,
1887, 1891, 1892, 1894, 1897, 1898.

1900, 1902, 1915, 1917, 1919, 1920, 1921, 1924, 1925,
1926, 1927, 1928, 1931, 1932, 1936, 1938, 1939, 1941, 1943,
1944.

Private

1894, 1898.

1905, 1906, 1911, 1913, 1923, 1925, 1926, 1927, 1928,
1931, 1934, 1936, 1945.

HOTELS AND TAVERNS

1683.

1703, 1713, 1774, 1789, 1796, 1797.

1801, 1802, 1813, 1818, 1838, 1840, 1847, 1864, 1867,
1875, 1876, 1878, 1881, 1882, 1883, 1892, 1896.

1902, 1911, 1912, 1913, 1915, 1917, 1919, 1927, 1929,
1933, 1936, 1939, 1941.

INDUSTRIES AND MILLS, ETC.

1650, 1678, 1690.

1703, 1714, 1735, 1767, 1791, 1792, 1797.

1815, 1818, 1828, 1832, 1836, 1837, 1838, 1841, 1847,
1851, 1858, 1866, 1867, 1870, 1871, 1873, 1875, 1880, 1882,
1883, 1884, 1888, 1892, 1895.

1902, 1903, 1904, 1905, 1907, 1910, 1912, 1914, 1916,
1918, 1920, 1922, 1923, 1924, 1925, 1927, 1928, 1929, 1930,
1936, 1938, 1939, 1940, 1946.

LANDS

Developments

1885, 1891, 1895, 1896, 1897.

1903, 1909, 1913, 1914, 1918, 1919, 1920, 1921, 1923,
1924, 1925, 1927.

LANDS (*Continued*)**Purchases, Etc.**

1648, 1669, 1692, 1693.

1708, 1711, 1713, 1722, 1734, 1747, 1773, 1797.

1806, 1826, 1829, 1831, 1835, 1845, 1851, 1852, 1862,
1870, 1875, 1882, 1887, 1888, 1890, 1891, 1892, 1893, 1894,
1895.

1902, 1903, 1905, 1906, 1909, 1911, 1912, 1913, 1915,
1917, 1919, 1920, 1921, 1922, 1924, 1925, 1926, 1927, 1928,
1929, 1930, 1931, 1935, 1937, 1938, 1940, 1941, 1943.

Other

1630, 1636, 1642, 1693, 1703, 1770, 1784, 1799.

1802, 1806, 1815, 1840, 1843, 1845, 1847, 1851, 1864,
1865, 1868, 1872, 1873, 1878, 1881, 1883, 1886, 1887, 1888,
1892, 1894, 1895, 1896, 1899.

1900, 1901, 1902, 1903, 1906, 1912, 1913, 1916, 1917,
1922, 1925, 1926, 1928, 1930, 1932, 1936.

(See "set-offs").

MILITARY

1675.

1729, 1767, 1770, 1771, 1772, 1773, 1774, 1775, 1776,
1777, 1778, 1779, 1780, 1781, 1784, 1787, 1799.

1812, 1813, 1815, 1822, 1834, 1835, 1840, 1852, 1854,
1861, 1862, 1863, 1864, 1865, 1866, 1872, 1873, 1874, 1875,
1876, 1898.

1910, 1914, 1917, 1918, 1919, 1923, 1925, 1927, 1928,
1929, 1931, 1938, 1939, 1940, 1941, 1942, 1943, 1944, 1945.

LIBRARIES**Public and Private**

1827, 1831, 1839, 1842, 1854, 1857, 1862, 1868, 1869,
1870, 1871, 1872, 1883, 1887, 1891, 1892.

1905, 1906, 1908, 1930, 1940, 1944, 1945.

OLD BELFRY

1761, 1764, 1767, 1774, 1797.

1891.

1909, 1910, 1912, 1913.

PARKS AND PLAYGROUNDS

1894, 1895, 1896, 1897.

1901, 1902, 1905, 1911, 1912, 1913, 1917, 1919, 1920,
1921, 1922, 1927, 1928, 1929, 1930, 1931, 1932, 1935, 1936,
1937, 1938, 1941, 1944.

(See also "Common, Gifts, Lands," etc.).

POST OFFICES

1639.

1813, 1836, 1841, 1867, 1874.

1901, 1904, 1909, 1913, 1924, 1926, 1936, 1938.

SET-OFFS

1636, 1642, 1643, 1648, 1655, 1669, 1682, 1684, 1691.

1712, 1714, 1728, 1754, 1757, 1761, 1766, 1792, 1798,
1799.

1873.

STREETS

1636, 1648, 1650, 1660, 1678, 1683, 1693, 1696.

1703, 1711, 1713, 1714, 1718, 1722, 1733, 1734, 1735,
1738, 1770, 1773, 1787, 1797, 1798, 1799.

1800, 1803, 1805, 1806, 1815, 1821, 1834, 1848, 1849,
1850, 1857, 1858, 1868, 1872, 1875, 1876, 1885, 1886, 1888,
1889, 1890, 1891, 1893, 1894, 1895, 1896, 1897, 1898, 1899.

1900, 1901, 1902, 1903, 1904, 1905, 1906, 1909, 1914,
1915, 1916, 1921, 1923, 1924, 1925, 1926, 1927, 1928, 1929,
1930, 1931, 1933, 1937, 1941.

TRANSPORTATION

1734.

1803, 1806, 1845, 1846, 1858, 1866, 1871, 1873, 1885,
1886, 1887, 1896, 1897, 1898, 1899.

1900, 1901, 1902, 1904, 1905, 1907, 1908, 1912, 1924,
1926, 1929, 1936, 1940, 1941, 1942, 1945.

UTILITIES

Electric, Gas and Telephone

1872, 1875, 1876, 1882, 1886, 1891, 1892, 1893, 1894,
1895, 1899.

1909, 1912, 1914.

Water

1872, 1873, 1880, 1881, 1884, 1886, 1888, 1892, 1894,
1895, 1896, 1898.

1900, 1901, 1902, 1903, 1905, 1909, 1912, 1918, 1919,
1920, 1921, 1928, 1930, 1933, 1934, 1938, 1945.

(See also "Drainage").

WEATHER AND STORMS

1717, 1727, 1728, 1744, 1755, 1780, 1794.

1810, 1814, 1815, 1816, 1817, 1830, 1836, 1848, 1851,
1852, 1853, 1857, 1858, 1859, 1860, 1861, 1862, 1864, 1869,
1871, 1873, 1876, 1878, 1886, 1888, 1890, 1898.

1909, 1911, 1915, 1917, 1918, 1921, 1926, 1934, 1938,
1944.



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